

CT

Patient Information



www.cobalthhealth.co.uk
01242 535900

Registered Charity No: 1090790



Cobalt
Medical Charity
Diagnosis • Research • Education



This leaflet aims to answer questions about having an CT

What is a CT scan?

CT (Computed Tomography) uses a special type of X-ray to produce detailed cross-sectional images of the body (like slices in a loaf of bread!). These images provide much more detail than a standard X-ray and can help diagnose and monitor a wide range of medical conditions. A CT scan is quick, painless and non-invasive.

Why do I need a CT scan?

Your healthcare professional has recommended a CT scan because it is the most appropriate imaging

test to help diagnose or assess your condition.

The detailed images produced during the scan help your healthcare professional make an accurate diagnosis and, if needed, plan the most appropriate treatment.

What happens when I arrive for my appointment?

A member of our CT team will welcome you when you arrive and help you prepare for your scan. Before your scan, we will explain the procedure, complete a safety



checklist with you and answer any questions you may have. If required, you will be asked to provide your consent before the scan.

Please tell the radiographer if you have diabetes, asthma or any allergies.

For some CT scans, you may need to drink or have an injection of contrast, a substance that helps certain parts of the body show up more clearly on the images. If this is needed, it will be fully explained to you beforehand.

If you are breastfeeding and need a contrast injection, you will be advised to wait 24 hours before breastfeeding again. Please speak to a member of our team if you have any questions

What should I wear?

If possible, please wear comfortable clothing that does not contain metal, such as zips, buttons, buckles or underwires. This can help avoid the need to change before your scan.

If your clothing is not suitable for the scan, we will provide you with

a gown or loose-fitting clothing to wear during your appointment.

What happens during your CT scan?

Your radiographer will help you lie comfortably on the scanning couch. Pillows or straps may be used to help you stay in the correct position and keep as still as possible, so that clear images can be obtained.

During the scan, the couch will move slowly through the scanner. The radiographer will be in the adjoining control room but will be able to see, hear and speak to you at all times using an intercom.

The scanner may make clicking or whirring sounds while the images are being taken. You may also be asked to hold your breath or not to swallow for a few seconds. If you feel uncomfortable or anxious at any time, please let the radiographer know.

How long will it take?

The scan itself usually takes around 5 minutes. However, your total appointment will last for up to approximately 30 minutes.

Is it safe?

CT scans use X-rays, which are a form of ionising radiation. The amount of radiation used is higher than for a standard X-ray, but the benefits of an accurate diagnosis generally outweigh the very small associated risk.

If you are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, please tell a member of staff before your scan, as special precautions may be needed.

For your comfort

If you would like to bring a friend or relative with you, they are welcome to accompany you to your appointment and can wait in the waiting area during your scan.

Please do not bring children to your appointment unless they are also attending as a patient or another adult is available to supervise them. Unfortunately, our staff are unable to look after them.

How do I get my results?

Your referrer should receive your scan report within one week. We recommend making an

appointment with your referrer to discuss your results.

The radiographer will not be able to give you your results on the day of your scan, as your images need to be reviewed and a report prepared by a specialist doctor.

Any questions?

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

You can contact us through:

✉ enquires@cobalthealth.co.uk

☎ 01242 535900

If you would like to visit the department before your appointment, please contact us. More information can be found on our patient page on our website:



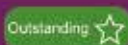
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Did you know Cobalt is a *charity*?

We deliver quality, patient-focussed diagnostic imaging; we undertake research, mainly in cancer and dementia; and we invest in sustainable innovation and improving patient care. We educate medical professionals and support the development of the next generation of healthcare workers.

We partner with colleagues in the NHS, like-minded people in local communities, experts and pioneers. To make all this possible, we depend on donations and income from our services.



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