

Your CT Scan in the Radiology Department

Radiology

Patient Information Leaflet

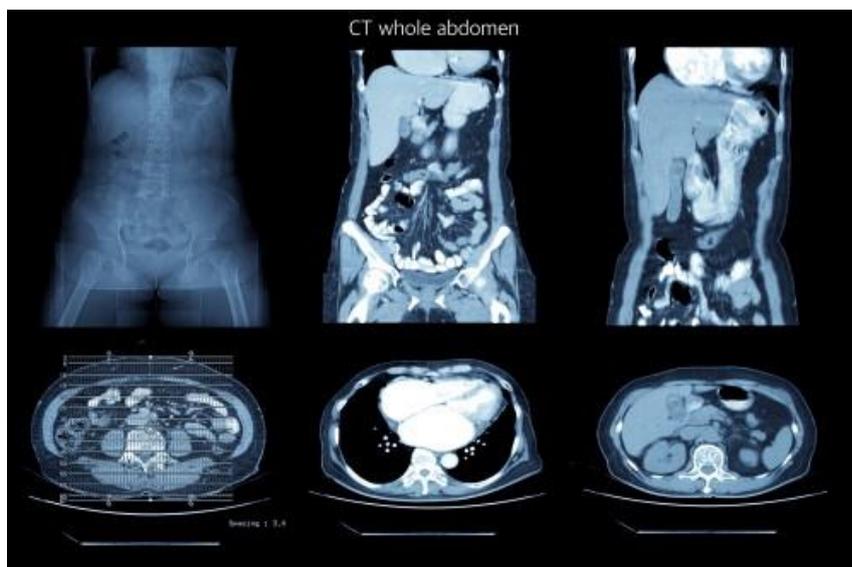
Welcome to the Radiology Department

The radiology department may also be called the X-ray or imaging department. It is the facility in the hospital where radiological examinations of patients are carried out, using a range of X-ray equipment, such as a CT (computed tomography) scanner, an ultrasound machine and a MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scanner.

Radiologists are doctors specially trained to interpret the images and carry out more complex examinations. They are supported by radiographers who are highly trained to carry out X-rays and other imaging procedures.

What is a CT scan?

A CT scanner is a special X-ray machine which can produce cross-sectional pictures through any part of your body. The scanner consists of a doughnut-shaped structure that is about two feet thick; it is not a tunnel. The information is then built up into a series of pictures viewed by the radiologist.



Are there any risks?

CT scanning involves the use of X-rays. Women who are or might be pregnant must inform a member of staff in advance. The amount of radiation used is more than an ordinary X-ray of the chest or body and is equal to the natural radiation that we receive from the atmosphere over a period of approximately three years.

Some patients may need to have an injection of a contrast medium (or 'X-ray dye'); this is injected into a vein in your arm. This is to increase the amount of information we obtain from the scan. There is a very small chance of an allergic reaction to the injection. We will however make sure you are feeling all right before you leave the department.

If there is any possibility that you may be pregnant, please inform the X-ray department before you attend for your appointment.

Do I need to prepare for this examination?

Different scans need different types of preparation. It is very important that you read your scan appointment letter as this contains all of the details of how you need to prepare for your examination.

The abdomen contains many organs and, in order to see certain parts in more detail, additional preparation may be required after you have arrived in the department. If this is necessary it will be explained to you at the time. If this preparation has been sent with your appointment to take beforehand, please follow the instructions provided carefully. We may require you to attend for a blood test prior to the scan. If this is necessary, a form will be sent with your appointment letter giving instructions on how and when to do so.

Frequently asked questions

What happens during the CT scan?

- From reception you will be directed to the waiting area. From here you will be taken to the CT room or preparation area by a radiographer or clinical support worker
- If you are attending for scans of the chest or abdomen, please try to wear clothes without any metal zips or fastenings as changing facilities are limited
- Otherwise, you may need to change into a hospital gown
- You may need to have a cannula put in prior to the scan. The clinical support worker or radiographer will carry out this procedure
- You may be asked to drink some water or orange flavoured preparation prior to the scan over a period of time once you arrive. This will help us visualise your organs when we scan you
- You will be asked some questions to ensure we have your correct details and also that you are able to have the contrast injection
- You will be cared for by a small team including a radiographer, radiologist, and a clinical support worker. The radiographer will carry out the scan.
- They will assist you to lie on the couch and make you comfortable. The couch top will then move you until the part of you that is to be scanned lies within the centre of the hole of the scanner.
- The radiographer will leave the room before the scan begins; however, we can see and hear you at all times from the control room.
- You will need to lie as still as possible and, from time to time, we may ask you to hold your breath.

- We may need to give you an injection of contrast agent (X-ray dye) into a vein in your arm. This greatly increases the information produced by the scans. This may give you a warm feeling throughout your body when it is injected.
- The scan will not be uncomfortable nor will you feel any pain apart from the discomfort of having to lie still. You can continue as normal once you are informed that your examination is complete.

How long will it take?

You can expect to be in the CT scanning room for anything from five minutes up to half an hour depending upon the exact nature of your scan. The whole examination may take up to an hour and a half if you need to drink and have a cannula inserted.

While we will endeavour to ensure you are seen at your appointed time, emergencies may sometimes have to take priority. We ask for your patience and understanding should this happen. If there is a delay you will be kept informed.

How will I get the results?

Your scan will be examined in detail after your visit and a written report will be sent out to the doctor who sent you for the scan. You will get the results from this doctor.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, but for reasons of safety they cannot accompany you into the CT scanning room except in very special circumstances. Please note: the X-ray department is unable to provide facilities for childcare while you are in the department.

Are there any side-effects?

Not usually, although you might need to visit the toilet again. You can drive home afterwards and may return to work as necessary.

Can you eat and drink afterwards?

Yes.

How to contact us

For any queries or CT appointment changes, please ring the number for your hospital:

For Furness General Hospital: 01229 403557

For Royal Lancaster Infirmary: 01524 511911

Other sources of information:

Websites

For general information about radiology departments, visit The Royal College of Radiologists' website: www.goingfora.com

For information about the effects of X-rays read the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) publication: 'X-rays, how safe are they?' on the website: http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947388410

NHS 111

For health advice or information you can call NHS 111 or visit the website: <https://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/Emergencyandurgentcareservices/Pages/NHS-111.aspx>

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Other formats

If you would like to receive this information in an alternative format, then please contact : 01539 795497.

Travelling to our hospitals

For the best way to plan your journey visit our website:

<http://www.UHMB.nhs.uk/> or contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS): 01539 795497.

Useful Contact Details

NHS 111 (for 24 hour urgent health advice): telephone 111

Your Information

If you would like to know how we use, share, disclose and secure your information and your rights of access to the information we hold about you, visit the Trust's website: <http://www.UHMB.nhs.uk/> or contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01539 795497.

Evidence

Details of the evidence used in writing this leaflet are available on request from: Patient Information Officer at 01524 512476.

Feedback

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care or treatment, please speak to a member of staff or contact PALS on 01539 795497.

UHMBT is a no smoking Trust. Smoking is not permitted on any of the hospital sites. You can contact the NHS North Lancashire Stop Smoking services on the number below:

NHS Quit Squad - **0800 328 6297**

If you live in Cumbria, please call **0300 013 3000** to find a local pharmacy who are offers 1-2-1 support and nicotine replacement therapy.

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