

Hospital guide. Under 10's



Information for you and
your child to prepare
for a CT Scan.

What is a CT Scan?

A CT Scan is a special type of camera that lets us take photos of the inside of your body. It looks like a giant doughnut and is open at both ends. It sounds like a washing machine, but you don't get wet

Why am I having one?

It lets the doctors see what is going on inside your body.

Before your scan.

You might be asked to go to the children's ward to have some special drinks before you come to have your scan. It shouldn't taste of much. If it does then ask your nurse to put your favorite squash in so it tastes nicer. You may also have to have a small tube put into the back of your hand or arm for us to use during the scan. They have special cream on the ward which they can use so you can't feel this bit.

You might need to get changed into a gown for the scan. Your normal clothes could have a zip or metal bits on. These show up as funny things on the pictures. If you don't want to wear one then wear your normal clothes, just make sure they don't have any metal bits.



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During the scan.

The person taking your scan is called a Radiographer. They will call you through to the scan room and will ask you to lie on the bed. You have the most important job to do, keep nice and still just like a statue. This will help us to get really good pictures.

If you want the adult you have brought with you to stay in the room they can. They will have to wear a funny apron. This is just so we don't get pictures of them too.

The Radiographer will want to have a look at the small tube in your arm or hand, if you've got one and give it a little drink of water. Do you think you can lie on our bed with your arms above your head? Oh and don't forget to smile, doing these things always gives us the best pictures.

When we are taking the pictures the bed that you are lying on moves you through the scanner. We'll give your little tube another special drink that helps us to see inside you better. This might make you feel warm inside but don't worry, that feeling goes away again really quickly.

After the scan.

Once the scan is done you can either go back to the ward or, once the little tube has been taken out, you can go home. The pictures will be sent to the doctor looking after you.



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What if I'm nervous?

Maybe bring something with you to help. Is there something you can watch on your tablet when you are in the scanner? Not a film though, they last too long. How about listening to your favourite music? Just remember you can't dance when you're having the pictures taken. Or bring your best teddy or toy. They can sit with you and have a ride on the scanner bed too.

We work closely with a great team of play specialists. It might help to arrange to speak with them or a Radiographer before your scan. If you are already in the hospital for another appointment and you want to have a look at a scanner, come around to CT and have a chat. We'll happily let you have a look around to get rid of those nerves.

Why not have a look at this YouTube link of a CT scan to see what to expect.

[A child's guide to hospital: CT Chest - YouTube](#)

Any questions?

Why don't you write your questions down and bring them with you on the day?

We are looking forward to meeting you,

CT Team.



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