



## The Rowan Suite

World Class Private Heart & Chest Care

# CT Scan (Computerised Tomography)

Specialised Type of Scan



Information for Patients & Families

This leaflet has been written to provide information about having a C.T. Scan. We hope it answers some of the questions or concerns you may have. It is not intended to replace talking with medical or X-Ray staff.

### ***What is a C.T. Scan?***

C.T. stands for Computerised Tomography. A C.T. scan (or CAT Scan) is a specialised type of X-Ray. The X-Rays are passed through a computer to produce highly detailed and accurate images of inside your body.



### ***How is a scan done?***

You will be asked to lie on the scanning bed. The bed is then passed through the scanner (some people say it's like a big polo mint) whilst the pictures are taken.

For certain scans you may require an injection. The injection is an X-Ray dye (contrast agent), which will make your blood vessels show up more clearly on the scan images. Just like a normal X-Ray we will ask you to hold your breath when we are taking the pictures.

### ***Will I feel any pain or discomfort during/after the scan?***

A C.T. Scan should be a painless and comfortable procedure. If you need to have a dye injection we will put a needle into a vein in your arm or hand. When the dye is injected it may make you feel warm and give you tingling sensations around the body. These sensations only last for a few seconds. Very rarely some people may develop a mild rash.

### ***How long does a scan take?***

This varies depending on what type of scan you are having. Most scans take between 20-40 minutes. If you have a dye injection you **MUST** remain in the department for a short time after the scan to ensure the dye does not have any delayed effects on you.

### ***How do I prepare for the scan?***

You may be asked to change into a hospital gown before your scan.

Certain types of scans, such as those of the abdomen may require some preparation. You will be given important information about this prior to the scan if appropriate.

If you know you are allergic to the X-Ray dye (contrast agent) or you take Metformin for diabetes then you **MUST** let us know before your appointment. Please call the number on your appointment letter.

## ***What are the benefits of having the scan?***

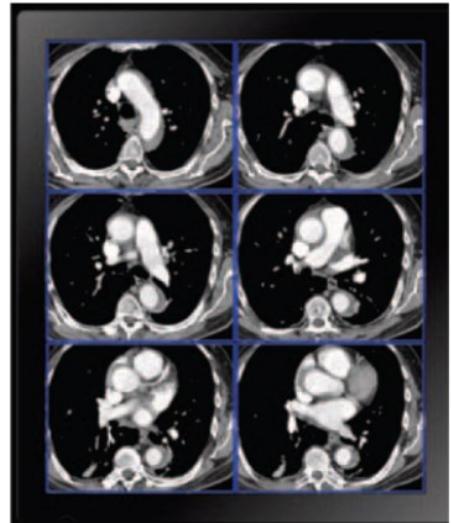
A C.T. Scan will provide your doctors with very detailed images of inside your body. Unlike ordinary X-Ray images C.T. images enable the doctors to look at slices of inside your body producing much more detailed images. These detailed images can help your doctor to diagnose certain conditions and determine the best treatment options.

## ***What are the risks involved?***

Every day we are all exposed to natural radiation such as from the sun. Like an X-Ray, C.T. involves an extra dose, but every effort is made to keep this as small as possible.

**However, this extra dose may be harmful to an unborn child. If you think there is a chance you may be pregnant please contact us before your appointment.**

A very small percentage of people are allergic to the X-Ray dye and may need further medical attention after the injection.



X-Ray dye and Metformin may cause problems for some patients.

The chances of this happening are very small. However, we ask all patients who have the dye injection to stay off their Metformin on the day of their scan and for 2 days afterwards. This allows time for the dye to have completely passed through your body.

If you are worried about any of these risks, please speak to your Consultant or a member of their team.

## ***What if I am pregnant?***

It is unclear if X-rays will damage your unborn baby therefore we try and do scans within the first 10 days of your cycle. If you think you may be pregnant please phone us before your appointment date.

## ***What alternatives do I have?***

Depending on your condition other tests may be available such as X-Rays and ultrasound scans (involves the use of ultrasound waves to create images). However these tests may not provide as much information as a CT scan. Your doctor will be happy to discuss any alternative tests or procedures if they are applicable to you.

## ***What can I expect after the scan?***

If you have had a dye injection you may be asked to stay in the department for a short time after the scan to ensure you don't experience any side effects. If side effects such as skin rashes occur you may require medication.

## **When can I resume normal activities?**

You may resume normal activities as soon as the scan is over.

**Patients who take Metformin tablets should not take them for 48hrs after the dye injection.**

## **When do I get the results?**

Your results will go directly back to the doctor who referred you for the scan.

You will need to return as an outpatient to receive the results when they become available.

## **For further information visit:**

- [www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)
- [www.lhch.nhs.uk](http://www.lhch.nhs.uk)
- [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)

**If you require a copy of this leaflet in any other format or language please contact us quoting the leaflet code and the language or format you require.**

إذا ثديك الرغبة في الحصول على نسخة من هذه المعلومات بأي لغة أخرى أو بشكل آخر (على سبيل المثال بخطوط كبيرة)، الرجاء الاتصال علينا على الرقم 0151 600 1257 موضحاً الشكل أو اللغة التي ترغب فيها.

如果您想索取一份以其他語文或形式（如大字體）編印成的資料傳單，請致電 0151 600 1257 向我們查詢，並說明您所需要的形式和語文。

لەگىر ئەم زانىيارىانەت بەھەر زمانىيکى تى ياخود شىۋازىتكى تر دەھرىت (بۇ نەھۆنەت بە چاپى گەورە) ئەوا تكايىە بە ژمارە تىلەفۇنى 0151 600 1257 پەيوهندىيمان پېئوە بىكە و ئامازە بىدە بەر زمانەي ياخود شىۋەيەي كە دەھىرىت

W celu uzyskania niniejszej informacji w innym języku lub formacie (np. dużym drukiem), prosimy o kontakt z nami pod numerem 0151 600 1257 podając wymagany format lub język.

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