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CT Scan of Chest, Abdomen & Pelvis

Information for patients

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This is a sophisticated X-ray investigation using a Computed Tomography (CT) scanner to visualise your chest, abdomen and pelvis.

On arrival you may be asked to drink an X-ray dye which will outline your stomach, small bowel and large bowel on the subsequent scan.

Your scan will start approximately 1 hour after you have taken the dye. You will be required to lie very still on a special couch which will move you through the scanner. You will be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds as the scan is taken.

The Radiologist viewing your scan may wish to give you an injection of a special colourless liquid (X-ray contrast agent or "dye") into one of your veins to help provide better pictures.

Should this be necessary you will experience a small needle prick. Apart from this you should not experience any discomfort.

Every effort will be made to start your scan at the appointed time, but in the event of emergency cases arising you may be delayed.

PREPARATION

You may eat normally until **4 hours** before your appointment. Please have nothing further to eat or drink until after your scan. Sips of water are allowed.

If you need to receive an injection of contrast "dye" you will have to remain within the Department for up to one hour after your examination. X-ray staff will advise you when you may go home.

DIABETIC PATIENTS

IT IS IMPORTANT that all diabetic patients let us know in advance if you take tablets for diabetes as we may need to give you further instructions regarding your medication.

Individuals of childbearing capacity aged 10-55

Information regarding possibility of pregnancy will be sought by the radiology staff prior to booking and on the day of your scan.

If you think you may be pregnant or if your period is late, please let the Radiographer know.

RISKS/BENEFITS OF THE PROCEDURE

X-rays are a type of radiation. We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives; this comes from the sun, food we eat, and the ground.

The amount of radiation you receive from your CT scan will vary depending your age, size and reason for your scan. The main benefit is making the correct diagnosis to ensure you receive the correct treatment.

Exposure to X-rays carries a small risk, but your doctor feels that this risk is outweighed by the benefits of having the scan. We will take all safeguards to minimise the amount of X-rays you receive.

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND

If, for any reason, you cannot keep the appointment please let the X-ray Department know as quickly as possible so that the appointment space can be offered to another person. Telephone 028 9068 7999.

Name of Patient:

Appointment Date:

Appointment Time:

Referring Consultant:

Radiologist:

If you have any queries
our CT Radiographers
will be pleased to help you:

T: 028 9068 7999 E: Xray@uic.org.uk