

Having a CT Scan: what should I know?

This leaflet explains about having a CT scan including what you can expect when you come to hospital. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.

What is a CT scan?

A CT scan is a large camera which can take special photographs of the inside of your body. The scanner is the shape of a doughnut and is open at both ends. Having your pictures taken will not hurt but you will need to stay still. The CT Scan sounds like a washing machine. This is nothing to worry about.



Why am I on Jungle Ward?

If you have been asked to come to Jungle ward before your CT scan you need to have a cannula (little straw) inserted. This will be used to put contrast in your body for your pictures. Contrast is a special type of dye which is needed for some scans to highlight the areas that are being examined. You will go to the CT scanning department once you have had your cannula inserted.

If you have any questions about having the cannula the nurses or play specialist can help you.

Where will I have my CT scan?

You will have your scan in the Lanesborough Wing scanning department on the ground floor.

Who will I meet?

You will meet a radiographer. A radiographer is a trained medical professional who oversees taking your pictures and making you feel comfortable during your CT scan.

Your parent or carer will be able to go with you for your CT scan. If you are feeling nervous you can ask the radiographer if your parent or carer can be with you while the CT scan is taking place. They will be asked to wear a special outfit.

Having a CT scan

You can wear your own clothes for the scan as long as there are no metal materials on you, for example buttons, earrings and bra. You may be asked to wear a hospital gown.

You can take a soft teddy in with you during the scan.

The contrast will be put through your cannula (little straw) by a doctor.

This will feel warm, it will not hurt.

You will be asked to lie on a type of sliding bed which will move you into the scanner. You may need to use a head support to keep you still.

It is very important you stay still while in the scanner which can take between 10 to 15 minutes. Some children and young people stay relaxed by thinking of something nice. Your parent or carer might be able to go in with you. They will be asked to wear a lead apron.

Once the radiographer has enough pictures the bed will slide out and you can get dressed to go. Your cannula (little straw) will either be removed by the radiographer or a nurse back on Jungle ward.

After this, you can go home if you are not having any other scans or appointments.

Any questions?

If you have any questions, please ask any of the nurses, play specialists or radiographers on the ward/department.

CT scan: What do the pictures look like?



For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough wings (near the lift foyer).

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111

AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website (www.accessable.co.uk). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.



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