



The Neurofibromatosis Association

Registered Charity No 1078790



THE CT SCAN

What is a CT scan?

- CT stands for Computerised Tomography
- It was developed in the early 70s
- The scan produces cross sectional pictures of the body on a computer screen

How does it work?

- A rotating beam of x-rays is used to produce a picture
- The scan is painless

What happens before the scan?

- All metal objects e.g. jewellery, coins, glasses, dental braces should be removed
- You should tell the radiographer if you cannot lie flat comfortably, if you suffer from claustrophobia and if you are or might be pregnant

What happens during the scan?

- The scan takes between 15 to 45 minutes
- The couch will move slightly to different positions in order to take pictures from different angles
- The radiographer will be able to see you throughout and you will be able to speak to each other via an intercom
- As the CT scan involves the use of x-rays, friends or relatives may not be present in the scan room

Will you need to have an injection?

- As in the MRI scan the contrast agent helps to give more detailed pictures

What happens after the scan?

- There are no after effects
- The radiologist will produce a report that will be sent to your doctor
- The radiographer will not be able to give you the result

What about children having CT scans?

- The procedure is the same for children as for adults
- Children may be given a sedative or short anaesthetic to help them stay still during the scan

Staff in the radiology department

Radiologists are doctors who are specially trained to interpret scans. They will write a report on your examination which will be sent back to the specialist that referred you for a scan.

Radiographers are the people who carry out the scan. The radiographers have had special training to enable them to work in all areas of the department and to use the scanning equipment.

Radiology nurses and neuro-radiology nurses work with the radiologists during the more specialised procedures.

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For more information and a full list of publications please contact:

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