

# Computed Tomography (CT) Examination



This information sheet will help to answer some of your questions about your CT scan.

## **What is a Computed Tomography (CT) scan?**

A CT scan is taken by a computer scanner that takes picture of your body in “slices”.

## **What will happen?**

You will be lying down on a special tabletop which will slowly move through the opening of the CT scanner. It is important that you stay still during your scan.

## **How long will it take?**

This will depend on how many pictures your doctor has asked us to take, but it could be anywhere between 10 minutes to one hour.

## **Will I need a needle?**

We may need to give you an injection of a dye into your arm. This dye will help us to see organs and other parts of your body.

## **Are there any side effects from the dye?**

Side effects are rare but some people may

- feel a warm sensation and/or a bitter taste in the mouth from the dye
- feel sick or dizzy

**If at any time during your scan you fell unwell, please tell a staff member.**

**If you have ever had an injection with a dye in the past and you have felt unwell please tell our staff before your scan or procedure.**



### **You also may experience some side effect when you are home.**

These can be

- tenderness where you have had the injection
- swelling of the arm
- an infection or a blood clot

If you feel unwell after you have gone home go to your GP immediately.

### **Will a CT scan expose me to radiation?**

All scans and x-rays deliver radiation doses. A CT scan does deliver more radiation than a normal x-ray but it is a similar amount to what you receive every year from the natural environment.

**Western Health Medical Imaging staff will ensure that all patients receive the least amount of radiation necessary during your scan.** If you would like more information on the risks of medical radiation exposure, please ask a staff member.

### **Can I have a CT scan if I am pregnant?**

Yes, it is possible for pregnant women to have a CT scan. **Please let us know so that we can ensure the baby receives the minimum amount of radiation or, determine if another type of scan is more suitable.**

### **What if I have more questions?**

If you have more questions, you can

- ask a staff member
- call the medical imaging department on 8345 6234
- talk to your doctor

### **How to find us**

Medical Imaging Departments are located on the ground floor of;

Sunshine Hospital, 176 Furlong Road, St Albans

Western Hospital, Gordon Street, Footscray

Williamstown Hospital, Railway Crescent, Williamstown

Phone: 8345 6234. Opening Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday

*We appreciate your feedback. If you think that this information could be improved contact the Manager for Community Participation and Diversity on 8345 1302.*



*Reviewed by the  
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Western Health

