

The report will only go to your GP if they have requested the scan.

Typically, you will receive the results of the scan the next time you visit the doctor looking after you. Your doctor will be able discuss what future tests or treatment you may need.

How can I contact you?

Telephone: 020 7288 5888 (Mon – Fri 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Address: CT Department
Whittington Hospital
Magdala Avenue
London
N19 5NF

Please telephone the department if you are pregnant or allergic to iodine/contrast.

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.PALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please email whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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All about your CT scan: CT Colonography



Your appointment is

on.....at.....



What is a CT scan?

A CT scan is an examination of any part of your body using a Computed Tomography scanner (CT scanner), which provides accurate pictures of the structures inside your body with the use of x-rays. The scan taken builds up many images of the body, rather like the slices of a loaf of bread. It helps the doctor to make a diagnosis of your problem.

Is there any preparation?

Yes, prior to your scan date you will be telephoned and asked to collect some special medication to prepare the bowel and instructions on the diet to follow before your scan. It is **very important** to follow the instructions carefully to obtain a good quality scan.

On the day of your appointment, you may drink water, but please do not eat or drink anything else (diabetic patients may eat non-solid food from the diet sheet).

What happens?

You will be asked to change into a gown which is provided. The radiographer (who operates the scanner) will take you into the scanning room where you will lie on the scanner table.

You may be given an injection to relax the bowel, which makes the examination more comfortable and effective. You may also be given an injection of contrast (x-ray 'dye') during the scan to enhance the images. Both injections will be given through the same needle.

When you are lying comfortably on your side, the radiographer will gently pass a very small flexible tube into the back passage, and distend the bowel with air, so that it can be seen more clearly on the scan. It may be uncomfortable, although not usually painful. This tube will remain in place during the scan.

Pictures will then be taken with you first lying on your back and then on your tummy and/or side.

The table moves slowly through the scanner, which is shaped like a large ring.

You can talk to the radiographer throughout the scan.

You may be asked to hold your breath for approximately 10 seconds whilst pictures are taken.

The scan itself takes about 30 minutes but you will be in the department for up to 1 hour. Please allow for this when considering your transport to and from the hospital.

Is it dangerous?

This is a safe examination, however there is some risk associated with most procedures.

- If you are diabetic, please monitor your blood sugar carefully while taking the preparation at home. Seek medical advice if you feel unwell.
- There is a small risk with the exposure to radiation as with any x-ray examination.
- There is a small risk of having an allergic reaction to the contrast (x-ray 'dye') and bowel medication in some people. **Please inform the CT radiographer on 020 7288 5888 if you have an allergy to iodine or have had an allergic reaction to x-ray dye in the past, before taking any preparation.**
- You may experience a metallic taste, hot flush or a sensation of passing urine during the injection- this is normal and will pass quickly.
- Occasionally some patients experience a mild rash, itchiness or nausea. Inform a radiographer if this happens on the day of your scan.
- You should drink plenty of water/fluids before and after the examination, particularly if you have had any recent episodes of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Please talk to your doctor or radiographer if you have any concerns about the risks.

What happens after the scan?

The scan is reported by a radiologist and the report is sent to the doctor in clinic who requested the scan.