

# COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY

## C.T. SCAN

### INTRODUCTION

Your C.T Scan will be carried out in the Diagnostic Imaging (X-ray ) Department at Dorset County Hospital.

Please read this leaflet carefully. It explains what will happen and why, and we hope it will answer some of the questions you may have. If after reading it, you have any other questions or concerns please ring the CT department on (01305) 254428

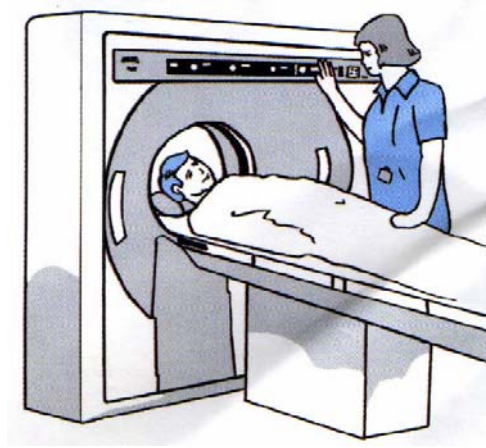
### WHERE TO FIND US

Dorset County Hospital is in Williams Avenue, Dorchester. Use entrance S1 for the Diagnostic Imaging Department.

Parking is available in the hospital grounds. The car park is pay and display.

### What is a CT Scan?

A CT Scan is a type of X-ray. CT stands for computed tomography, and simply refers to the technology in the equipment.



You lie on a narrow table which passes through a circular hole in the middle of the machine. A fan shaped beam of x-rays passes through a slice of your body on to a bank of detectors. The x-ray source and the detectors rotate around inside the machine. An image of the slice is formed by a computer and displayed on a TV monitor. You are moved slowly through the hole to take pictures of different slices of your body.

The amount of radiation given produces a radiation dose comparable to the dose that would be received from natural sources in the United Kingdom over a one and a half year period.

### You must inform the staff if you are, or think you might be pregnant.

The staff may also need to know if you are diabetic.

### The day of the examination

Please follow the instructions on your appointment letter. You may be asked to arrive **an hour earlier** than your appointment time to drink some contrast. You may need to undress for your scan and wear a hospital gown. You are welcome to bring your own dressing gown.

### Shall I need to have an injection?

You may need an injection as part of your scan. CT is used to look at areas where no natural contrast exists. In that case the radiographer or radiologist will give you an injection of a dye called a contrast medium, usually containing iodine. This has the effect of creating an artificial contrast which clearly shows up the area your doctor wants to investigate for damage or disease. Sometimes several scans are taken before the contrast medium is injected, and then further scans are taken after the injection.

Occasionally you will also be asked to drink at least a litre of something which helps to contrast your stomach and the rest of the gut. You will need to be drinking this contrast which can be flavoured with fruit squash for up to one hour before your scan.

### Will it be painful?

You will feel nothing from the scan itself. If the radiologist needs to use a contrast medium, he/she will explain to you what is involved.

## Who does the scan?

The person who carries out the scan is called a radiographer. He or she will explain the process to you and show you how to position yourself. You will be given your injection, if necessary.

It is very important that you stay still for the whole time whilst the pictures are being taken. You may also be asked to hold your breath for some of the time.

The radiographer will make sure you are comfortable afterwards and ready to go home.

Please don't ask the radiographer if your scan is good or bad—that is not a radiographers job.

Your scan will be examined by the radiologist, who will interpret the pictures and send a report to the doctor who asked for your examination to be done. This is why you have to wait a few days for the results.

The results will probably be available for the next Out-Patients appointment you have with your consultant .

## Finally.....

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us.

# DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICES

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## PATIENT INFORMATION