

CT Scan Thorax and Upper Abdomen

Respiratory Unit
Patient Information Leaflet

Introduction

This leaflet gives you general information about your CT (computerised tomography) scan. It does not replace the need for personal advice from a healthcare professional. Please ask us if you have any questions at the time of your scan.

What is a CT scan of the thorax and upper abdomen?

It is a special X-ray that allows us to create a series of detailed images of the inside of your chest and tummy area. There is no other test that gives as much information on lung tissue.

The scanner consists of a doughnut-shaped structure, about two feet thick with a hole in the centre. You lie on a bed and this passes through the centre of the scanner while the machine's X-ray beam rotates around you. You are not enclosed in the scanner.



Why do I need to have the CT scan?

You may have had a chest X-ray recently which has shown some shadowing, or your doctor may be investigating issues with your chest. The CT scan is used to see the soft tissues inside your body and is used to detect many disorders of the heart, lungs or chest area. The results of the CT scan will help your doctor to diagnose any health problems you have and decide on whether you need any further investigations or treatment.

How do I prepare for the CT scan?

You do not need to change your diet or treatment. You should continue to take your medicines as normal, however please contact the CT scanning department on 01384 244043 if you are taking **metformin** for diabetes.

What happens during the CT scan?

You will need to wear a hospital gown during the scan and since X-rays have difficulty passing through metal you will be asked to remove any jewellery.

Our radiographer will ask you to lie on a bed that will move through the scanner. They will then leave the room while the scan takes place but you will be able to see them through a glass window and talk to them through a microphone.

Most people are given an injection of contrast medium (a type of dye) into a vein in your arm during the scan to make the blood vessels easier to see. Please see the section 'Are there any risks?' for more information about this.

The scan is not at all painful. You may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds while the images are taken. Each image is taken quickly, but it takes a few minutes to appear on the radiographer's screen. You should expect to be in the scanning room for about 10 minutes.

Are there any risks?

We aim to make sure that every patient is fully informed about the risks and benefits of a procedure or treatment. CT scanning involves the use of X-rays. The amount of radiation used is more than an ordinary X-ray of the chest or body and is equal to the natural radiation that we receive from the environment over a period of approximately three years.

Women who are or might be pregnant must inform a member of staff before the scan as X-rays during pregnancy carry a very small risk of exposing the unborn baby to radiation which could cause cancer to develop in childhood.

The CT scan involves you having a contrast medium injected into a vein to increase the quality of information obtained from the scan. The injection usually causes nothing more than a warm feeling passing around your body. Rarely, if you have an allergy to the contrast medium you may experience itching, difficulty breathing or you may get a rash.

If you have kidney problems, the contrast medium may have harmful effects on the kidneys. In this situation the scan can still proceed, either without contrast medication or using a reduced dose.

Despite these slight risks, your doctor believes it is advisable that you should have this examination, and there are risks from missing a serious disorder by not having your scan. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

What happens after the scan?

You will be able to continue with your normal daily activities after your scan. There are no restrictions on you driving or returning to work.

Can I find out more?

For further information please contact the CT scanning department on 01384 244043.

If you have any questions or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet please contact:

CT scanning department on 01384 244043

This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 0730510

ਜੇਕਰ ਇਹ ਲੀਫਲੈਟ (ਛੋਟਾ ਇਸ਼ਤਿਹਾਰ) ਤੁਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ (ਪੰਜਾਬੀ) ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰ ਕੇ ਪੇਸ਼ਟ ਇੰਨਫਰਮੇਸ਼ਨ ਕੋ-ਆਰਡੀਨੇਟਰ ਨਾਲ **0800 0730510** ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

यदि आपको यह दस्तावेज़ अपनी भाषा में चाहिये तो पेशन्ट इनफरमेशन को-आरडीनेटर को टैलीफोन नम्बर **0800 0730510** पर फोन करें।

જો તમને આ પત્રિકા તમારી પોતાની ભાષા (ગુજરાતી)માં જોઈતી હોય, તો કૃપા કરીને પેશન્ટ ઇન્ફોર્મેશન કો-ઓર્ડિનેટરનો **0800 0730510** પર સંપર્ક કરો.

আপনি যদি এই প্রচারণাপত্রটি আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পোতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে পেশেন্ট ইনফরমেশন কো-অর্ডিনেটরের সাথে **0800 0730510** এই নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন।

إذا كنت ترغب هذه الوريقة مترجمة بلغتك الأصلية (اللغة العربية) , فرجاء ا اتصل بمنسق المعلومات للمريض

0800 0730510 على التلفون Information Co-ordinator

سب ضرورت اس یف ایٹ کو اپنی زبان (اردو) میں حاصل کرنے کے لئے براہ مہربانی ٹیلیفون نمبر **0800 0730510** پر ایف ایٹ انفارمیشن کو-آرڈینایٹر (مریضوں کے لئے معلومات کی فراہمی کے سلسلے میں اس کے ساتھ رابطہ کریں۔

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