

Your Child's CT Scan

- Things you might like to know

Well-Being

- Your child is having a CT scan so that their doctor can either make a diagnosis or monitor the progress of their treatment.
- The doctor can explain how the information gained will help to improve your child's diagnosis or treatment.
- Our overriding concern is to ensure that when anyone has an CT scan, the benefits from making the right diagnosis or providing the correct treatment outweigh any risk involved with the CT scan itself. We make sure that this is the case before anyone has a scan.

Consent

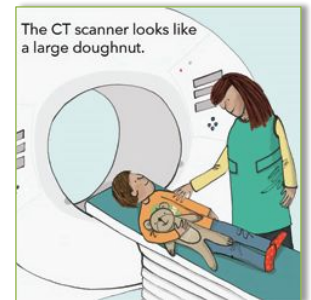
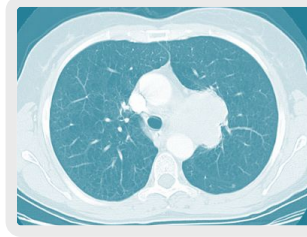
- Please feel free to ask your doctor if you have any questions. You can refuse to have the CT scan if you do not feel you have sufficient information.

About X-Rays and Radiation

- CT scanners use radiation – x-rays to generate the 3D "pictures" we need for your diagnosis and treatment.
- We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. This comes from our environment, the air we breathe, the food we eat and even from outer space (cosmic rays).
- In Scotland, the largest contribution comes from natural radiation in the underlying rocks and building materials (granite). In any one year our exposure will vary according to where we've lived, where we may have flown to, and what we may have eaten.

Our Standards

- Our CT equipment is regularly maintained and also subject to regular checks by our radiographers and Medical Physics teams.
- This ensures that the amount of radiation we use is kept as low as possible to get the pictures we need. If there are any technical problems during the scan, we will tell you.



Putting it in Perspective

- Each medical X-ray gives us an additional amount of radiation on top of the natural background radiation. The amount varies with the type of examination.
- Common CT examinations are those of the chest, head and bones. CT Scans use more radiation than a typical X-ray. This is around what you might be exposed to naturally over a one or two year period.
- The examination your child will be having today carries a low risk.

Pregnancy

- Please inform the radiographer if you are pregnant.

Did you know?

X-rays are a type of the electromagnetic wave and so travel through a vacuum at the speed of light. Electromagnetic waves form a spectrum, from short wavelength (high energy) cosmic rays to, through visible light, to long wavelength (low energy) radio waves.

