



A lifetime of specialist care

Royal Brompton & Harefield **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Having a CT scan (computerised tomography)





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This leaflet gives general information about your CT scan. It does not replace the need for personal advice from a healthcare professional. Please ask your hospital doctor, nurse or radiographer if you have any questions.

## What is a CT scan?

A CT (computerised tomography) scan is a special X-ray that allows us to take a series of detailed images of the body.

## What are the benefits?

The results of the scan will help your doctor diagnose any health problems you have been experiencing and decide on further treatment for you.

## Are there any alternatives?

A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan may give similar information about abnormalities of the heart, blood vessels, chest wall and abdomen. There is no other test that gives as much information about lung tissue.

## What happens if I don't have the scan?

Your doctor may not have all the information needed to make a diagnosis. This may affect the type of treatment he or she can suggest for you.

## How is a CT scan carried out?

A radiographer will ask you to lie on a bed that will move through the scanner. Radiographers are healthcare professionals who use images to diagnose and treat medical conditions and diseases. You will be able to talk to the radiographer through a microphone during the scan.

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A 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 takes a few minutes to appear on the radiographer's screen. You should expect to be in the scanner for no more than 20 minutes, depending on the type of scan.

If you have a scan where we need to make the blood vessels easier to see, we may give you an injection of a special dye through a small vein in your arm.

For some specialised scans of the stomach, we may give you water or a special drink so that the bowel shows up on the scan. We will give this to you 30 minutes to an hour before the scan so that the liquid has time to reach the bowel.

## After the scan

You will be able to continue with your normal daily activities after your scan.

## Female patients

If you are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, please tell us before the scan. We need to know whether you may be pregnant because the scan involves small amounts of radiation.

If you are having a scan of your pelvis, you must have the scan in the 10 days from the beginning of your last menstrual cycle. This minimises the chance of having the scan during pregnancy. If your menstrual cycle changes, please contact us to change your appointment date.

## If you have diabetes

You do not need to change your diet or treatment. Please contact the CT scanning department if you are taking metformin.

## Medicines

Please continue to take your medicines as normal. If you would like more information about the medication we may give you during your scan, please contact your hospital doctor or nurse, or speak to the radiographer before your appointment.

## Is there any risk from the radiation?

The amount of radiation used in this scan is kept to a minimum. We believe that the benefits of the scan far outweigh the risk to your health. If you have any concerns about this, please contact the imaging department and a radiographer will call you back and answer your questions.

## Consent (agreement)

We aim to make sure that every patient is fully informed of the risks and benefits of a procedure or treatment. As you are having a complex CT scan, we will ask you to sign a consent form. This records your agreement to have the scan. Please ask if you have any questions about the risks and benefits of the scan.

## Results of the scan

The results of the scan will not be available immediately. They will be sent to the doctor who is looking after you in hospital, who will discuss the results with you at your next clinic appointment, or over the phone if necessary.

## Contacts and cancellations

Please contact us if you have any questions about your scan.

If you are unable to attend your appointment for any reason, please let us know in advance. We can then give your appointment time to another patient and arrange a new appointment for you.

**Harefield Hospital**  
01895 828 582

**Royal Brompton Hospital**  
020 7351 8220



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## Where is the CT scanner?

### Harefield Hospital

There are two scanners at Harefield Hospital. Both are on the ground floor in the main hospital building. Please report to the main reception desk in the X-ray department and you will be directed to the appropriate scanner.

You can see a map of Harefield Hospital on our website here: [www.rbht.nhs.uk/about/locations/harefield-map](http://www.rbht.nhs.uk/about/locations/harefield-map)

### Royal Brompton Hospital

There are two CT scanners at the hospital. Please check your appointment letter to make sure you go to the correct scanner:

- Fulham Wing/South Block in the basement or
- Sydney Street, Level 3, X-ray department.

You can see a map of Royal Brompton Hospital on our website here: [www.rbht.nhs.uk/about/locations/brompton-map](http://www.rbht.nhs.uk/about/locations/brompton-map)

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If you have concerns about any aspect of the service you have received in hospital and feel unable to talk to those people responsible for your care, call the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on:

- Royal Brompton Hospital – 020 7349 7715
- Harefield Hospital – 01895 826 572

You can also email [pals@rbht.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@rbht.nhs.uk). This is a confidential service.

Royal Brompton Hospital  
Sydney Street  
London  
SW3 6NP  
tel: 020 7352 8121  
textphone: (18001) 020 7352 8121

Harefield Hospital  
Hill End Road  
Harefield  
Middlesex  
UB9 6JH  
tel: 01895 823737  
textphone: (18001) 01895 823 737

website: [www.rbht.nhs.uk](http://www.rbht.nhs.uk)

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Brosurteki bilginin Türkçe tercemesi için tedavi goruyor  
oldugunuz bolume bas vurunuz. Bolum personeli tercumenin  
gerçeklesmesini en kısa zamanda ayarlayacaktır.

