

### **What is a CT scan?**

A CT scan, previously also referred to as a CAT scan, is a test that uses digital computer technology and an X-ray machine that spins around the patient to obtain detailed images known as cross sectional imaging. This means that many images of the body are produced as if the body had been sliced and turned onto its side for viewing. A CT scan allows your doctor to image every type body structure including soft tissue, bone and blood vessels. The sophisticated computer within the CT scanner is able to stack these slices together to create a Three-Dimensional image of the body part that has been investigated.

CT scanning is an excellent medical tool that is used to detect a whole range of disorders in a non-invasive and painless procedure.

### **What is contrast?**

A CT scan, previously also referred to as a CAT scan, is a test that uses digital computer technology and an X-ray Intravenous (IV) contrast is a dye used in some CT examinations to allow further clarification of structures and tissues to allow for an accurate diagnosis. We use the most advanced form of contrast available called "non-ionic" contrast which has far fewer side effects and reactions.

Patients who have poor kidney function (renal impairment) will not be given contrast so as not to worsen the condition.

The dye will only be given once you give your consent (permission) to do so, which will need to be formally documented on the information sheet with your signature. If is needed you will be advised of any further preparation before your appointment.

### **How long does a CT scan take?**

Once you are in the room the examination will take approximately 15 minutes, sometimes longer depending on the area that needs to be examined.

### **Who conducts my CT scan?**

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### **What if I'm on medication?**

You must advise your referring doctor and the radiologist if you are on any medication. The use of medications may need to be reviewed.

### **What if I'm pregnant?**

If you are pregnant, or it is possible that you may be pregnant, then a CT scan is usually not performed unless it is an absolute medical necessity to do so. Please inform our clinic if this situation applies to you.

### **When do I get the results?**

The results of your CT scan can take up to 1 day to be finalised. You will be advised when to pick up your images and report for your follow up with your doctor.

### **What documents do I need?**

Please bring with you your referral letter and any prior scans and reports as this will assist the radiologist in assessing your condition.

### **How do I make an appointment?**

You can call our clinic directly on 02 4722 4700 to book in an appointment, walk-ins are also welcome but a waiting period could occur.

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