

This usually manifests as an itchy rash that settles down by itself. Occasionally people require additional medications for this.

- Rarely the contrast (dye) goes into the tissues under the skin of your arm rather than the vein. This can cause bruising and swelling which may require ice packs. The contrast is washed out through your kidneys and occasionally (in less than 2%) it can cause some temporary impairment of your kidney.
- Regarding pregnancy, the risk from radiation exposure is higher for unborn children; therefore, women of childbearing age (12-55) will be asked about their menstrual history and pregnancy status. **If there is a chance that you may be pregnant, please phone our receptionist before your appointment date on 01851 708224.**

Getting to your appointment

Parking

There is free parking at the hospital. Please allow plenty of time to find a parking space as spaces are often limited. There is disabled parking close to the main building.

Patient transport is available, if required. To book, telephone the contact number in your appointment letter.

Inside Western Isles Hospital

The CT Scanning Suite is located in the Radiology Department on the ground floor of Western Isles Hospital.

- From the main reception follow the left corridor past the lifts.
- Take the first right, then the first left.
- Walk down the corridor until you reach the double doors on your left which lead you into the Radiology Department, and report to the reception desk.

Further information and help

If you have any questions regarding your appointment time or the examination your doctor/healthcare professional has asked for, please contact the Radiology Department.

Radiology Department

Tel: 01851 708224

Open: Monday-Friday from 8.30am-5pm

We are listening - how did we do?



We welcome your feedback, as it helps us evaluate the services we provide. If you would like to tell us about your experience:

- speak to a member of staff
- visit our website www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk or share your story at: www.careopinion.org.uk or tel. 0800 122 31 35
- tel. 01851 704704 (ext 2236) Monday-Friday between 10am-4pm.

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Disclaimer

The content of this leaflet is intended to augment, not replace, information provided by your clinician. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Reading this information does not create or replace a doctor-patient relationship or consultation. If required, please contact your doctor or other health care provider to assist you to interpret any of this information, or in applying the information to your individual needs.

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NHS Western Isles

Radiology Department

Computed Tomography (CT) Scan



Patient information leaflet

What is a CT scan?

CT (computed tomography) is a method of getting high quality X-ray pictures of the human body. These are then processed by a powerful computer.

CT scanning uses X-rays and special detectors to circle the body and take views from all angles. This builds up a picture of every type of tissue in detailed slices. These images are viewed on a monitor to help the Radiologist reach the correct diagnosis. This helps to diagnose any health problems at an early stage. Your doctor can then decide on the best treatment for you.

The scan takes between 5 and 30 minutes.

Preparing for your scan

Medicines

Please continue to take any prescribed medicine. If you take water tablets and have been asked to hydrate before your scan, call the Radiology Department for advice.

Dress

Please wear clothes with as little metal as possible. For example, a soft tracksuit without zips, underwear without clips or underwire. We can also provide a gown, and offer changing cubicles, with facilities for disabled people.

Valuables

If possible, please leave all your valuables at home. The changing rooms can be locked, but we cannot accept responsibility for anything that is lost.

Language difficulties

If you need to an interpreter, please phone 01851 708224 as soon as you get your appointment.

When you arrive at Radiology

We advise that you attend 5-10 minutes before the time given in your appointment letter.

On arrival, please report to the receptionist in the Radiology Department and give them your appointment letter. They will ask you to take a seat in the waiting room and let the Radiographer know you have arrived.

The Radiographer will then collect you from the waiting room and:

- check your name, date of birth and address
- confirm the area we are going to x-ray
- explain the procedure
- allow you time to change if you need to.

At your CT scan

The radiographer will explain the examination to you and position you on the scanner table. The table slides into the scanner, which is open at both ends and looks like a giant doughnut.

You may need an injection during your scan and if so, a cannula will be placed into your arm.

The radiographer will be able to see and hear you from the control room. They can talk with you through an intercom system.

It is very important that you keep very still and relax during your scan. You will not feel anything but will hear the noise of the scanner as it moves around you.

If we are scanning your chest or abdomen, we may ask you to place your arms above your head to get a better picture. You may also be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds to ensure

sharper images of your upper body.

With your consent, you can have a parent/guardian or carer with you when having your x-ray. They will stand behind the glass screen with the Radiographer.

How long does it take?

You should expect to be in the Department for about 15 minutes as your images will be checked to make sure we have all the information we need.

However, If you have had a cannula inserted, you will need to stay in the department for an additional 20 minutes after your scan, until your cannula is removed. You will then be able to go home.

We store your scans for future reference.

When will I get my results?

Your results will be sent to your doctor or to the health professional who asked for the examination. You may be sent a follow-up appointment to discuss your results with them.

Please do not contact the Radiology Department for the results.

Are there risks of radiation?

- The amount of radiation used during the CT scan varies but is around 2 to 3 times the amount that you would normally receive in a year from background natural sources of radiation such as cosmic rays and rocks in the Earth's crust. We can assure that all safeguards to minimise radiation are taken.
- Very occasionally people experience an allergic reaction to the contrast injection.