



SHAUKAT KHANUM MEMORIAL CANCER HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE

COMPUTERISED TOMOGRAPHY (CT Scan)

Patient Information

Leaflet #: 7-3

**7-A Block, R-3, M.A Johar Town, Lahore-Pakistan.
Phone #: 042 – 5945100, UAN: 111-155-555**

CT Scan

What is a CT scan?

CT stands for computerised tomography. A CT scan uses x-rays to produce images which match closely sections of the head or body. Imagine a sliced loaf of bread - the whole loaf represents the person being scanned and each slice is a single cross section image.

What preparation will you need?

The preparation depends on which part of the body is to be scanned. You may be asked to undress and put on a gown. Any extra information will be given to you when you arrive at the CT department.

- For all scans you will be asked not to eat or drink for three hours before your appointment.
- For abdominal and pelvic scans you will be asked to drink a fairly large amount of fluid before the scan. This is to help identify your stomach and bowel.
- For pelvic scans you may also need the following:
 - a. a full bladder
 - b. a small amount of fluid or air passed into your rectum (back passage)
 - c. a tampon inserted into the vagina (front passage) for women

All these help to pinpoint and mark different organs within your body on the scan.

An injection of contrast medium may be given into a vein in your arm or hand. This helps to provide clearer images. Some people experience warmth at the site of injection, flushing and an overall warm feeling and an unusual metallic taste in their mouth. These side effects usually last afterwards a few moments.

Does the scan hurt?

No, the scan is not painful. However you will have to lie still for about 45 minutes on a table which is quite hard. You may also find the position you have to lie on uncomfortable, for example with your hands behind your head.

If you have any pain or discomfort, which could lead to difficulties during the scan, please tell the doctor, radiographer or nurse before your scan.

During the scan you may be asked to hold your breath or not to swallow while each image is being produced. If you think you may have problems following these instructions, please speak to any of the staff.

Is the scan dangerous?

No, it is not. A CT scan uses x-rays so if you think you may be pregnant, please inform one of the technologist before the exam.

Is it safe to drive home?

Yes, it is.

What happens afterwards?

As soon as the scan is completed you may get ready to go home or back to your hospital ward if you are an in-patient. You may go to the toilet and eat and drink as usual.

When will I know the results?

Although the person carrying out your scan can see organs or parts of your body on the screen, the images must be carefully interpreted by an expert radiologist. She/he will prepare a report and send it to your doctor a few days later. Your doctor will tell you the results and discuss them with you

What if I cannot keep my CT appointment?

If you can't keep your appointment for any reason, please contact the CT department as soon as possible, on the telephone numbers given at the end.

If you are admitted to hospital before your appointment, please tell the staff on the ward that you have a CT appointment booked.

The staff in the CT department will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please ask at the time of your appointment.

Where can you get help?

If you have any queries or problems related to your health, please contact:

Radiology Department of Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Centre Lahore

Phone #: 0092 - 42 - 5945100

Ext.: 2499, 2299, 2294 (Radiology Reception)

Day: Monday – Friday

Time: 8:00am – 5:00pm

Reference: CancerBacup (UK)