



Patient Resource Sheet

CT Scan

Computed Tomography Scan



What is it?

Computed tomography (CT) scan is a kind of X-ray that gives doctors a clear picture of what is going on inside your body. Regular X-rays show your bones and some other parts of the body, but CT scans show more details. The scan usually lasts between 15min – 1hour.

What to expect during a CT scan?

1

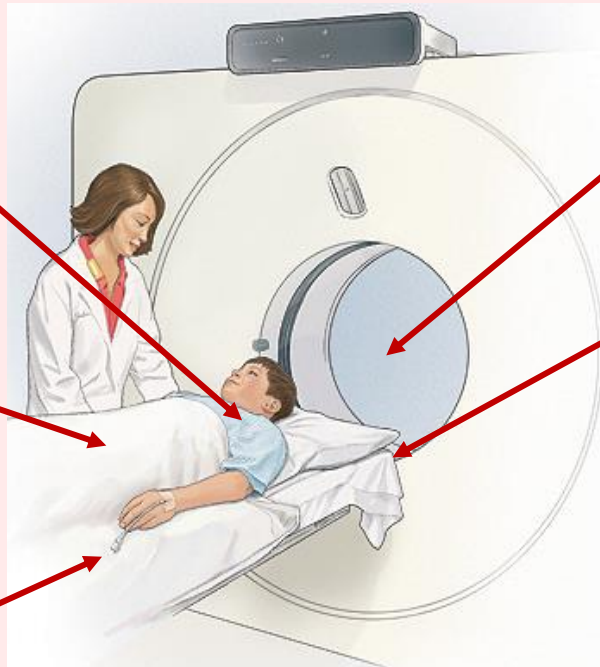
You will first change into a hospital gown.

2

You will lie down on a bed and have a belt to help you hold still. You can ask for a blanket to keep you comfortable.

3

You may need to drink a clear liquid or have it put into your IV plug. This liquid will help the doctor to see the inside of your body clearly.



4

The bed will move into the big camera that looks like a donut! Once ready, the technician will start taking the pictures.

5

You may hear some swishing sounds in the machine. That is just the camera taking pictures!



Watch this!

[Preparing for Your CT Scan](#)

What should I do during the CT scan?

1. **Visit the toilet:** Remember to do so before the scan as you will not be able to leave the room until the scan is done!
2. **Stay really still!** : If you move, the pictures may be blurred and you may have to stay longer to take clearer pictures.
3. **Get some sleep:** The scan will seem a little shorter for you when you sleep.

If you want to learn more, ask your doctor/nurse to give the Child Life Therapist a call when you are staying in the hospital!

Resources:

http://kidshealth.org/kid/word/c/word_ctscan.html#cat20193

<https://www.stanfordchildrens.org/en/topic/default?id=ct-abdominal-scans-in-children-135-32>