

CT of the small bowel

Why the scan is being done

With the help of the scan, illnesses in the small bowel can be detected.

Getting ready for the scan

Do not eat or drink anything for four hours before the scan.

Arrive 1 hour before the appointment in order to drink intestinal contrast medium.

If you have not received other instructions from the unit where you are treated, you may take your regular medications with a little water.

Inform the radiographer before the scan if you are hypersensitive to contrast medium that contains iodine.

Before the scan, tell the radiographer if you are pregnant or suspect pregnancy.

How the scan is done

The CT scanner is used to obtain cross-sectional images of the small bowel using X-rays.

The scan is painless.

1 hour before the scan, you will be given 1.2 litres of intestinal contrast medium to drink.

Drink the solution a little at a time.

You will be given instructions by the radiographer.

During the scan, it is important to lie absolutely still. You will lie down on your stomach on the examination table.

The table will move during the scan.

The radiographer will be able to see you, hear you and talk to you at all times during the scan.

You will be given medication (Glucagen or Buscopan) into a vein to reduce movement of the bowel during the scan.

You will also be given a contrast medium that contains iodine into a vein.

The contrast medium causes a temporary sensation of warmth and you may have a metallic taste in your mouth.

The contrast medium will be eliminated from your body through urine.

The contrast medium makes it easier to interpret the images.

The examination takes about 2 hours.

However, you should reserve slightly more time for your appointment.

After the scan

Drink plenty of fluids after the scan.

Drinking helps eliminate the contrast medium from your body.

You were given intestinal contrast medium to drink before the scan. As it is not absorbed by the bowel it causes increased bowel movements and enhances stool passage.

Make sure you can go to the toilet if you need to.

If you have a sensor that measures glucose in interstitial fluid, replace it with a new one.

Where do you get the scan results

You will get the scan results from the referring outpatient clinic or ward.

Other considerations

There is no separate fee for the scan; it is included in the outpatient clinic fee.

If you are unable to attend your scheduled scan appointment, please let us know as soon as possible.

A penalty fee will be charged for a missed appointment not cancelled in advance.

Contact information

If you have any questions about the scan, please contact the imaging unit you are scheduled to attend.

Pori Satasairaala and Rauma

You can call our joint service number:

044 707 9202.

Phone hours:

Monday to Friday,

8 am–2.30 pm.