

CT Scan

A CT (Computed Tomography) scan allows us to look at your body in cross-section (like looking at the slices of a loaf of bread in turn).

Using the CT scanner and a powerful computer, we can build up a picture of the whole area showing both soft tissue and bone, and see parts of the body which are difficult to see by any other method.

Preparation

Some scans require no preparation while others will require you to fast for up to 4 hours before the procedure. This will be advised when booking your appointment.

Please take your normal medication with a sip of water.

For abdomen or pelvic scans, you will be given special drinks prior to the examination. These drinks will help to outline the bowel, making interpretation easier and more accurate.

Before your examination, you will be asked to fill out a questionnaire and sign a consent form.

Procedure

You will be asked to lie on a table which is moved into the centre of the scanner. This contains the x-ray tube and sensitive detectors. These rotate around the part of your body to be examined but will not touch you. The CT scanner makes a slight buzzing sound as it rotates. You may be asked to hold your breath for short times during the scan.

The information from the scan is processed by a computer to produce cross-sectional images.

The scan is closely monitored by our staff and, should you need help, they are trained to give you all the assistance you require.

Special provisions may be needed for small children.

Do I have an injection?

For some examinations you will be given an injection of an iodine based contrast medium to make the picture clearer, or to give additional diagnostic information.

Please indicate on the questionnaire if you have any known allergies before the injection is given.

Are there any side effects?

You will be exposed to a small dose of x-rays, however it is unlikely to cause harmful effects.

If you have an injection of contrast you may notice a sensation of warmth and a metallic taste in the mouth. Very occasionally transient side effects such as nausea or an itchy rash may occur, but severe reactions are extremely rare.

If there is a chance you may be pregnant you should inform us before the examination.

How long will the procedure take?

Most examinations are completed within 30 minutes, although attendance may take up to 1.5 hours for abdominal scans.

On completion of the procedure the pictures are processed the images are interpreted by the radiologist who then writes a report for your referring doctor.

Please contact your referring doctor to discuss the results.

PLEASE BRING ANY PREVIOUS X-RAYS OR SCANS WITH YOU ON THE DAY OF YOUR EXAMINATION.

CONFIRM ANY PREPARATION REQUIRED WITH STAFF WHEN MAKING YOUR APPOINTMENT.

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Your doctor may request to go filmless

With the growing use of digital imaging, Northside Medical Imaging is giving doctors the opportunity to not receive hard copy films and to replace them with electronic reports and images – in other words, go “filmless”.

If your referring doctor elects to go “filmless,” once you have completed your medical imaging examination, you will no longer have to wait for x-ray films. The images will be sent electronically to your doctor’s computer together with a report from our Radiologist. If you require films in the future, all films are stored digitally and can be requested at anytime with 24 hour notice.

CT IS PERFORMED AT OUR HORNSBY & LINDFIELD CLINICS

Northside Medical Imaging clinics

Hornsby

53 Palmerston Road, Hornsby 2077
Ph: 9476 3388 | Fax: 9477 7873

Hornsby

14 Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby 2077
Ph: 9477 1644 | Fax: 9482 1102

Lindfield

4/12-18 Tryon Road, Lindfield 2070
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