

## Please call us on 04 8062193 if:

- You have had a recent CT scan
- You have had an allergic reaction to Contrast Media (X-ray dye)
- There is a chance you could be pregnant
- You are breast feeding
- You know it is difficult to take your blood for testing or give you an injection.

## What is CT Colonography?

This X-ray test uses a CT scanner to take detailed pictures of your large bowel.



A Medical Imaging Technologist (MIT) takes the CT scan and a Radiologist, who is a specialist X-ray doctor, reads the scan.

## Is there any preparation for the scan?

Your appointment letter will tell you how to get ready. Follow these instructions carefully and ring us if you have any questions.

Female patients, wear a non-underwire bra if you have one.

## Can I bring a friend or relative with me?

Yes, but for their safety, they will not be able to stay with you during the CT scan.

## What happens when I arrive in Radiology?

Come to the reception desk, you will be directed to the CT Scanning waiting area. Please take a seat.

Before we take you into the scanning room, the MIT will talk to you about the scan and ask some questions about your health. This is done in private. You can ask questions at any time.

We are required to ask all females between the ages of 11 and 60 if there is a chance they could be pregnant.

You will need to change into an X-ray gown.

## What can I expect during the scan?

The MIT will ask you to lie on the CT scanning table. The table will move into the donut. You are not in an enclosed space / tunnel during the scan.

When you are on the table, we give you an injection of a medicine called Buscopan. This relaxes the bowel muscles, makes the scan more comfortable and gives better pictures. We will talk to you about this before your scan.

We put a small tube into your back passage and fill your bowel with Carbon Dioxide gas. This dilates your bowel so the inside surface can be clearly seen on the pictures. This can be uncomfortable.

We ask you to keep still and hold your breath during the scan.

You may need an injection of X-ray dye. If needed we will talk to you about this before your scan.

## What happens after the scan?

Buscopan may cause blurry vision. This is temporary, but you cannot drive or operate machinery for at least 1 hour after the scan.

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You may then return to your normal diet and activities.

If you become unwell after leaving the Radiology Department, contact your GP or go to the Emergency Department / After-hours Clinic.

### **How long will I be in Radiology?**

Allow at least 1 hour.

### **How do I get the results of the scan?**

We send the results to the doctor who asked for the scan and your GP, this usually takes 1-2 weeks.

Contact your doctor if you do not have a follow-up appointment.

### **Are there any risks?**

CT Colonography is a safe test but as with all medical tests, there are risks, these include:

- Damage to the bowel wall (a small tear in the lining of the colon or rectum; this happens in fewer than 1 in 3000 tests)
- Dehydration or an electrolyte imbalance. It is important to drink plenty of fluids
- An allergic reaction to any medications we inject.

Like any X-ray procedure, this test uses radiation.

The benefits to you from having the scan far outweigh the very small risks. Your doctor has considered the risk.

If you have any questions please ask our staff.

### **Can I bring my valuables?**

Please leave your valuables at home. CCDHB cannot take responsibility for the loss or damage of personal property belonging to patients or visitors.

### **Feedback**

We would love to hear about your experience. To give us feedback there are forms available in the waiting room or you can talk to one of our staff.

#### **Please seek urgent medical treatment if you have:**

- Pain, redness and loss of vision in your eye
- Severe abdominal pain

**For emergencies CALL 111 or go to the Emergency department/After-hours clinic**

#### **Contact us**

Phone: (04) 806 2193

Hours: 8:30 am - 5pm, Monday to Friday

Fax: (04) 806 0301

Email: radiology.admin@ccdhb.org.nz