

## 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 Enterography?

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

You can take all your usual medications.

## 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.

In the hour before your scan you will be asked to drink a large volume of liquid, this is why we ask you to arrive 1 ¼ hours before your appointment time. The liquid distends (expands) your bowel so abnormalities can be better seen on the CT pictures.

Before we take you into the scanning room, the MIT will talk to you about the scan and ask some questions about your health. We do this so we know it is safe for you to have the test. 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.

We may ask you to change into an X-ray gown. If you wear loose clothes that have no metal zips and buttons this may not be needed.

## What happens during the test?

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, which gives better pictures. We will talk to you about this before your scan.

You will need an injection of an x-ray dye (intravenous contrast media) this highlights soft tissue structures, bloods vessels and the bowel wall on the CT images

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

Yes, but for their safety, they will not be able to stay with you when the pictures are taken.

## What happens after the test?

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

[continued]

## What happens after the test? (continued)

You may return to your activities.

You can eat and drink as normal but the combination of Buscopan and all the liquid we ask you to drink can make you feel very full after the procedure.

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

## Why do I need an injection of X-ray dye?

X-ray dye is a colourless liquid injected through a needle placed in a vein in your arm or hand.

X-ray dye highlights the soft tissue structures and blood vessels in your head and body. This will give extra information to the doctor reading the scan.

The MIT will ask you some questions about your health before the scan to check it is safe for you to have X-ray dye.

You may feel warm and flushed over your body and get a metallic taste in your mouth during the X-ray dye injection. These feelings are normal and only last for a few minutes.

## How long does the scan take?

The scan itself will take 10 minutes but you will be in the department for at least 2 hours.

## Is the CT scan safe?

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.

## Is X-ray dye safe?

- There is a very small chance you could be allergic to X-ray dye.
  - Minor reactions (e.g. a rash or feeling sick) usually do not need any treatment.
  - Serious reactions (e.g. difficulty breathing) are very rare and will need treatment, our staff are prepared for this.

### Please seek urgent medical treatment if:

- You have any pain, redness and loss of vision in your eye

### In an emergency:

- Call **111**
- go to the Emergency department / After-hours clinic

- Sometimes X-ray dye can leak into the tissues around the blood vessel rather than going into the blood vessel. This usually does not need any treatment.
- If you have problems with your kidneys there is a small chance the X-ray dye could make these worse. We will talk to you about this when you come for your scan.

## How do I get the results of the test?

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.

## Diabetic patients

Please contact your GP for advice about how to manage your medication. Ring us if your appointment is in the afternoon and you would prefer a morning appointment.

## 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.

### Contact us

Phone: (04) 806 2193

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

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