

RESULTS OF YOUR CHILD'S SCAN

Your pictures will be reviewed and a report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the results during the follow-up appointment.

NEED TO CANCEL

If you need to cancel your child's CT appointment, please call the CT Centre at 807-684-6319 **as soon as possible**.

If your child has a bad cold and is coughing, you would be best to reschedule the appointment, as it is unlikely that your child will be able to lie still for the entire time of the scans and/or an appointment time can be given to another patient.

PARENTS

If your physician gives you any papers, x-rays, ultrasounds, or MRI films, please bring them with you. These are necessary for the proper interpretation of the scan. The waiting room is unsupervised so please do not leave your children unattended. It is recommended that you bring along an activity to occupy your child during the wait.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It is important for you and your child to understand and prepare for a hospital event such as a CT scan. Be sure to contact us with any additional questions that you may have. The pamphlet has been designed for you to read with our child.

PHONE CONTACTS

CT Reception (807) 684-6319

Paediatric Outpatients (807) 684-6520

Child Life Specialist (807) 684-6521

Also visit the hospital website at www.tbrhsc.net - Programs / Services / Paediatrics / Getting ready for your CT Scan

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
980 Oliver Rd., Thunder Bay ON P7B 6V4
Tel: 807-684-6000
www.tbrhsc.net



MATERNAL/CHILD SERVICES

Paediatrics/Paediatric Out-Patient Unit

WHAT IS A C.T. SCAN? (COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY)



Type of C.T. Scan _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Report to Diagnostic Imaging - X-Ray Department.
Please bring your Health Card to your appointment.

WHAT IS COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY?

Computed Tomography is often called a CAT Scan or C.T. Scan. It is a type of x-ray, which is connected to a computer and takes pictures of an area of the body being studied. This special camera takes pictures of the inside of your body in many layers. Each of these pictures is like one slice out of a loaf of bread, and by taking many of these pictures; a full view of your body can be seen. This procedure takes between 5 to 15 minutes. These scans can produce a detailed (clearer) look inside your body. You must remain still for clear pictures that are not blurry.

HOSPITAL STAFF INVOLVED

A **Booking Clerk** will contact you and book your appointment.

The **Out-patient Nurse** will prepare your child for their scan and give sedation when necessary.

A **Child Life Specialist** can assist you and your child, prepare and understand the procedure.

The **CT Technologist** operates the scan.

WHERE DO I GO?

Preparation will be provided by the Paediatric Outpatient Department when sedation is being considered. When your child is sedated, a paediatric nurse will go with you and your child to the CT Department, and after the scan, your child will return to the Paediatric Outpatient Department to be cared for until they are fully awake. If sedation is not required, you will go directly to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre Diagnostic Imaging Department.

SEDATION

Sedation may be necessary for some children. Factors that may affect the need for sedation are: type of scan required, length of the scan, child's age and their ability to remain still for extended periods. If sedation is being considered, please discuss with your doctor. Sedation can be given orally or rectally. It is very important for your child's safety to have an EMPTY stomach before sedation can be given. The procedure will be cancelled or delayed if the requirements are not followed.

- No food or milk products 8 hours before sedation.
- May have 4 oz. clear fluids (apple juice or water) 4 hours before sedation.
- Infants may have up to 6 oz. formula 6 hours before sedation.
- May breast feed 4 hours before sedation.

To help the effect of sedation, a late bed time and early wake time is required for your child. For example, if your child's appointment is at 10 am, he/she should wake at about 4 am. The lack of sleep helps your child during the procedure to remain still.

PREPARATION

Unless you are having a scan of your spine (backbone) or extremities (arms and legs) you should have nothing to eat or drink for 3 hours before the scheduled time. Quite often a patient will be given a contrast (fluid) for the CT Scan. This makes it easier to see different parts of your body more clearly. The contrast may be given with juice or water or may need to be injected into a vein. (Injection and drinks are entirely different contrast materials). Sometimes patients get both but each serves a different purpose. The drink outlines the gastrointestinal tract. The intravenous injection goes into the blood stream and makes some things show up more clearly. Sometimes people notice a metallic taste in their mouth after they had the contrast, and may also have a warm sensation through their body. **Please let the technologist know of any allergies/medical conditions that your child may have before the injection.**

BRIEF DESCRIPTION FOR THE CHILD

The CT scanner is like a short tunnel. It is white in colour and has a square shape with a round opening in the middle. There is a special bed to lie on which slides into the opening (tunnel). Your mom or dad can stay in the scanning room with you. The CT technologist can talk to you during your scan. Remember, when pictures are being taken, it is very important that you lay very still so the pictures are not blurry.