

**SALMANIYA**  
**MEDICAL COMPLEX**



**RADIOLOGY**  
**DEPARTMENT**

**CT SCANNER**

**Having a CT Scan**

**Your Guide To The**  
**procedure**

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The aim of this guide is to inform you of what to expect when you visit the hospital for a CT Scan examination.

**WHAT IS A CT SCAN EXAMINATION?**

The initials CT stand for Computerised Tomography. It is an X-ray procedure that is performed with the help of modern technology in the form of a computer. The scanner is an X-ray machine with a couch at its centre, upon which you will lie for the scan. The computer informs the scanner to pass X-rays through the region of your body that the doctor is interested in. The couch moves through the centre of the scanner as this happens. The X-ray information is then recorded by the computer as a set of cross sectional images that are displayed on a computer screen. The resultant pictures are then interpreted by a specialist doctor called radiologist.

**WILL I HAVE AN INJECTION?**

To gain extra information from the images the Radiologist may give you an injection of dye, in your arm, which shows up brightly in the cross sectional pictures. If you are undergoing a scan of your abdomen, you may be asked to fast for four hours before the scan, then drink several glasses of dye to help highlight the stomach and intestines.

**IS IT A PAINFUL TEST?**

No. The staff who operate the scanner, (radiographer or radiologic technologist), will explain what to expect and will endeavor to make your visit as comfortable as possible.

**HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?**

No two scans are the same and each is tailored to suit the individual, and will vary accordingly. Generally speaking a Brain scan may take 15 to 45 minutes.

An abdomen scan may take 1 to 2 hours, (including waiting time).

**ARE THERE ANY AFTER EFFECTS?**

There should be no after effects. You may eat and drink normally and resume your day to day routine once the test is over.

**IS IT HARMFUL?**

The scanner has been designed to the highest possible standards with radiation safety. It therefore uses the lowest doses of X-radiation necessary to produce the pictures. In your case the doctor thinks a CT Scan is the most appropriate test to help identify your condition.

**WHAT IF I AM DIABETIC?**

If you have been asked to fast for your scan please ring the CT Scanner suite for advice.

**WHAT IF I AM PREGNANT?**

If there is any possibility that you may be pregnant, please ring the CT Scanner suite for advice.

*LADIES PLEASE HAVE AVAILABLE THE DATE OF YOUR LAST PERIOD.*

**WHAT ABOUT THE RESULTS?**

The pictures contain much complex information that may take the radiologist up to one week to interpret, the results are then sent to the X-ray reception office. CPR must be shown when receiving X-rays.

**WHO SHOULD I ASK IF I HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTION?**

Please feel free to ask about all aspects of your scan. We welcome any inquiries and can quickly help to allay any fears and anxieties about the procedure. We want you to feel as confident as possible for your scan.

We hope you have found this guide interesting and informative, any comments will be welcomed to help our efforts to improve service to you.

*Although we endeavor to keep the stated appointment time, this may not be possible in the event of an emergency.*

*Comment may be sent to:*  
**CT Scanner Suite, Radiology  
Department, SMC, PO Box 12,  
MoH - Manama, Bahrain.  
Tel. 17284018 - 17284010 -  
17284084 (24 Hours)**

[www.health.gov.bh](http://www.health.gov.bh)