



**Spire Children and Young
People's Service**

Patient Information

CT Computed Tomography

Looking inside you – Explained by Mr Mole

I'm here to tell you all about
your CT Examination, CT is a way of
looking inside your body and
head using X-rays.



The CT scanner looks like a big doughnut
and inside the scanner is a camera that
takes many pictures.

Our CT scanner looks like this:



Is it magic or what?



Before your appointment you will meet
one of the CT team who will chat to you
about your scan and make sure it is safe
for you to have a CT scan.

You will need to take off any metal items
such as watches, rings, earring, necklaces,
glasses, hair clips and hearing aids – and
check you have nothing in your pockets.

We will have a locker ready for you to put
your belongings in.

You can also bring a teddy bear
(which has no metal on it or in it)
to go in the scanner with you.

When you are ready for your scan, you will
lie on the bed with your arms by your side
or above your head.

The bed slides through the scanner and
a radiographer, someone who is specially
trained, will take X-ray pictures of your body.

Sometimes your parent or carer can stay with you the whole time.

The scanner makes whirring noises as it takes the pictures.

It is really important to keep very still. If you move, it will make the pictures blurry. You may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds whilst the pictures are taken.

A computer puts all the pictures in order and lets us see what your body and head look like on the inside.

A CT scan is very quick, usually just a few minutes. It might take a little longer if you need to be given a special dye called contrast through a little injection into the back of your hand, or in a special drink. The dye shows up clearly on the scan pictures!

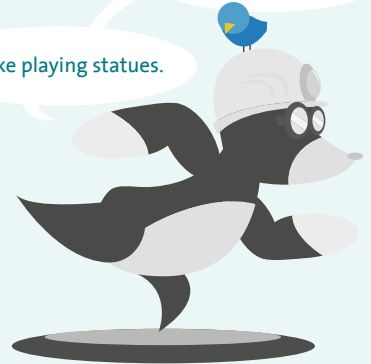
The injection can sometimes give you a funny feeling but it soon passes.

The computer pictures are then checked to make sure you have not moved during the scan.

How good are you at keeping still?

Look at my feet!

It's like playing statues.



The scans will be studied by a Radiologist; that is a doctor specially trained in looking at CT scans. The results of your scan will then be sent to your consultant.

If you have any questions or are worried about having a CT scan, just ask your consultant or the CT team to help.



Spire Healthcare

The information contained in this leaflet is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice nor is it intended to be for medical diagnosis or treatment.

Looking after you.