

Computed Tomography (CT)

What is a CT examination?

CT uses x-rays with detectors and a powerful computer to produce 2D slice images or 3D volume images. CT can show bones, soft tissues and blood vessels well.

We use the newest type of CT technology called 'Multislice CT'. This type of CT covers the body with thinner slices, producing more detailed images in a shorter time.

CT can also be used to guide interventional procedures or treatment.

What different CT procedures can be performed at the LGH?

At the LGH we offer a wide range of diagnostic and interventional CT procedures, including:

- Brain
- Sinuses, Face
- Petrous Temporal bones
- CT upper and lower extremities (e.g., CT shoulder, hand, wrist, elbow, ankle, foot)
- Neck
- Spine
- Chest
- Abdomen and Pelvis, including multiphase hepatic, renal or pancreatic studies.
- CT angiogram (looking at the blood vessels)
- CT Intravenous Pyelogram
- CT Intravenous Cholangiogram
- CT colonoscopy
- Nerve root injection
- Facet joint injection
- Core and Fine needle aspiration biopsy.

How do I prepare for my CT?

- If you have been referred for a CT scan by your doctor and would like to make a booking, please contact the bookings on 03 6348 7085.
- **Please inform your doctor & booking receptionist if you have diabetes, previous allergy to contrast, kidney problems or thyroid gland problems.**
- Please inform the booking clerk if you weigh more than 180 kgs.

Just prior to the CT scan

- You may be asked to fast immediately before the examination. Please continue to take your regular medication unless otherwise advised by your doctor.
- When you arrive, you may be asked to drink special fluids for around one hour before your scan.
- You may need an intravenous line inserted to administer x-ray contrast.
- You will be asked to remove clothing and jewellery from the body area being scanned.

During the CT examination

- A radiographer will do your scan. If you require contrast injection, this is done by the radiologist.
- A CT Scan will usually take 5 to 20 minutes, but this may vary. The radiographer will advise you.
- You will be asked to lie very still for the entire examination. You may be asked to hold your breath for a short time. This stops the images from blurring.

What do I do after the CT scan is finished?

- Return to your doctor to discuss the examination results.
- The radiologist's report is automatically forwarded to your doctor. If you are referred from outside the hospital you will need to wait for a CD of your images.
- Eat and drink normally after your CT scan is finished.
- If you have had an interventional procedure, you may be required to remain in hospital to recover for a short time depending on the type of procedure. You will be informed at time of booking if you are required to be admitted via the Day Procedure Unit for a short stay. For some interventional procedures it is advised that you should not drive immediately afterwards and should make transport arrangements prior to attending.

Further Information

The following web link provides additional information for patients:

Inside Radiology: www.insideradiology.com.au

This has been written specifically to help you understand more about any radiological tests and procedures that you or a family member may require. It has information about the roles and training of different health professionals you may encounter at a radiology practice or in a hospital radiology department such as at LGH.

It has been written by health professionals and is part of the Consumer Information Project of the QUDI Program (Quality use of Diagnostic Imaging) of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.

To find out more about the QUDI program, click here:

http://www.insideradiology.com.au/pages/qudi_about.php

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