

Your CT Scan and You



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

- Things you might like to know

Your Well-Being

- You are having a CT scan so that your doctor can either make a diagnosis or monitor the progress of your treatment.
- Your doctor can explain how the information gained will help to improve your diagnosis or treatment.
- Our overriding concern is to ensure that when you have an X-ray, the benefits from making the right diagnosis or providing the correct treatment outweigh any risk involved with the CT scan itself. We make sure that this is the case before you have an X-ray.



Our Standards

- Our CT equipment is regularly maintained and also subject to regular checks by our Radiographers and Medical Physics teams.
- This ensures that the amount of radiation we use is kept as low as possible to get the pictures we need. If there are any technical problems during the scan, we will tell you.

About X-Rays and Radiation

- CT scanners use radiation to generate the 3D “pictures” we need for your diagnosis and treatment.
- We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. This comes from our environment, the air we breathe, the food we eat and even from outer space (cosmic rays).

Putting it in Perspective

- Each medical X-ray gives us an additional amount of radiation on top of the natural background radiation. The amount varies with the type of examination.
- Common CT examinations are those of the chest, the skull and the abdomen. CT Scans will use several times more radiation than a typical X-ray. This is what you might be exposed to naturally over a three – four year period.
- The examination you will be having today carries a low risk.

Reproduced with permission from the Scottish Medical Physics Network (MPNET) Scottish Clinical Imaging Network (SCIN).

Did you know?

A CT scan uses X-rays to obtain a 3 dimensional picture of your anatomy. CT stands for ‘Computed Tomography’.

Pregnancy

Please inform the radiographer if you are pregnant.



Consent

Please feel free to ask your doctor if you have any further questions or concerns.

You can refuse to have the X-ray if you do not feel you have sufficient information.