

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Undergoing CT colonography (Omnipaque)

You will need to collect three bottles of special preparation (Omnipaque) from x-ray reception at either King's Mill Hospital or Newark Hospital (Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm) **at least three days** before your appointment. Please bring your appointment letter with you.

Your consultant has advised you to have a CT scan. This leaflet aims to explain the procedure and answer any queries you may have.

CT stands for Computed Tomography and simply refers to the technology of the equipment. CT is a scanning technique which uses x-rays to produce cross-sectional images of the relevant part of the body. It can be used to diagnose many conditions and also monitor the success of treatment.

You will need to contact us if:

- Your weight exceeds 30 stones or 200 kilograms
- You have an allergy to iodine
- You are pregnant or there is any possibility that you may be pregnant.

If you need transport to the hospital please contact your GP to arrange this. Although the actual scan time is only 30 to 45 minutes, you will need to allow 1½ hours for this appointment.

Please leave any valuables at home.

You are responsible for all personal items you bring into hospital and the Trust cannot accept responsibility for their loss or damage.

Information for patients with diabetes

If you have diabetes, you may need advice prior to your procedure. Please contact the nurse who controls your diabetes or your GP.

Important

You must follow the special diet outlined in this leaflet and take the Omnipaque as instructed. This helps to cleanse the bowel and show its contents clearly on the scan. The Omnipaque can have a laxative effect, so it is advisable to be close to a toilet after the first dose.

If you become sore you may use a barrier cream, for example Vaseline. Some abdominal discomfort can be expected.

Preparation for CT colonography

Seven days before the procedure:

- Stop taking iron tablets.
- You may continue with other medication including laxatives.

Four days before the procedure:

- Stop taking any drug which causes constipation, for example Lomotil (loperamide), codeine phosphate.
- Follow the low residue diet for three days.

Low residue diet

You may eat:

- ✓ White bread or toast with a scraping of butter or margarine.
- ✓ Honey, jelly, jam or syrup.
- ✓ Refined breakfast cereals for example Cornflakes or Rice Krispies - you may have a little milk and sugar.
- ✓ Plain biscuits, for example Rich Tea or Morning Coffee.
- ✓ Boiled or mashed potatoes.
- ✓ White or green pasta, white rice.
- ✓ Steamed, grilled or baked white fish, chicken or tofu.
- ✓ Eggs – poached, boiled or scrambled.
- ✓ Plain cottage cheese, fromage frais or natural yoghurt.
- ✓ Boiled sweets, ice lollies, vanilla ice cream.
- ✓ Weak tea or coffee – you may have sugar and milk.
- ✓ Soft drinks, for example fruit squash or cordial.
- ✓ Clear soups, Oxo or Bovril.

Do not eat:

- ✗ Wholemeal, granary or bran-type bread.
- ✗ Wholegrain breakfast cereals for example muesli, Shredded Wheat, Weetabix, All Bran, Bran Flakes.
- ✗ Wholemeal pasta, brown rice.
- ✗ Jacket, roasted or chipped potatoes.
- ✗ Dried fruit and nuts.
- ✗ All fruit, vegetables and salad.
- ✗ 'Cream of' or thick soups.

The day before your CT scan

Breakfast at 8am:

Drink the 1st bottle of 50ml Omnipaque liquid before eating a breakfast of:

- A boiled or poached egg with white bread/toast and a scraping of butter or margarine.
- Weak tea or coffee with a little milk.

- Unlimited soft drinks including water, Oxo or Bovril.

Please do not eat any cereals, jam or marmalade.

Mid-morning:

- Weak tea or coffee with a little milk, a Rich Tea or Morning Coffee biscuit.

Lunch at 12.30pm:

Drink the 2nd bottle of 50ml Omnipaque liquid before eating a lunch of:

- A small portion (75g) of steamed, poached or grilled white fish or chicken with white rice, pasta or white bread. 75g tofu, 2 boiled/poached eggs or 100g cheese may be substituted for the fish or chicken.
- Clear jelly with plain yoghurt or ice-cream.
- Weak tea or coffee with a little milk.
- Unlimited soft drinks including water, Oxo or Bovril.

No further food, milk or other dairy products are allowed until after the procedure.

At 4pm:

- Drink the 3rd bottle of 50ml Omnipaque liquid.
- Continue to drink plenty of clear fluids, including weak black tea and coffee. You may suck barley sugar sweets or dextrose tablets.

Note: If you have any questions regarding the preparation for this scan, please contact the CT department on 01623 622515, extension 3212.

On the day of the procedure

Continue with clear fluids only until two hours before your appointment.

The procedure

You will be asked to change into a gown. A radiographer will take you into the scan room and explain the procedure to you in more detail. Should you have any worries the staff will put you at ease and answer all your queries.

You are required to lie on a couch which will move through the large 'doughnut' shaped scanner. Your body will never be totally enclosed and you will be able to communicate with the CT staff through an intercom system. The scanner couch can be lowered and patients with mobility problems will be offered assistance.

For this scan it is necessary to insert a cannula (a small plastic tube through which an injection is given) into a vein in your arm. This will allow us to inject a special fluid called contrast medium to allow us to see the blood vessels more clearly. We will also use this cannula to inject a drug which relaxes the bowel.

A small tube will be inserted into the back passage to allow us to fill your bowel with air.

You need to lie very still on your back while the scan is in progress and we will ask you to hold your breath for a short time. We will then ask you to turn into different positions to enable us to do further scans.

Following the procedure

You may eat and drink normally. A high-fibre diet will help restore your normal bowel habit which will usually return within a couple of days.

Risks from the procedure

To minimise any risks you will be asked a series of questions before the scan.

A small number of patients suffer allergic type reactions to the contrast medium so you will need to remain in the department for up to 20 minutes following your scan. Such reactions are usually minor and settle quite quickly without treatment.

Very occasionally a small amount of the contrast medium may leak out of the vein into the surrounding tissue. You may experience some swelling and redness around the site of the injection.

The injection of the bowel relaxant may cause blurring of vision but this normally clears within half an hour. Very rarely the injection can cause pain in the eye. If this does occur, contact your GP immediately.

Your examination will be performed using the minimum amount of radiation necessary to produce the images needed to help your doctor diagnose your illness, injury or monitor the progress of your treatment.

We make sure that the benefits from having the examination outweigh the very low risk involved.

Getting your results

When your scan is finished, no instant diagnosis can be made. The images produced are recorded digitally and reviewed and a report sent to your referring clinician.

These results will be discussed with you by your consultant or a member of their team. If you have been referred from the hospital and have not received your follow-up appointment within four weeks please contact your consultant's patient coordinator.

Finally

We aim to see you at your appointment time but please remember emergency patients are scanned as priority. Should there be a delay the reasons will be explained to you.

Contact us

If you need any help before your appointment date you may contact the CT Department on 01623 622515, extension 3212.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

To be completed by the Communications office

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