

# Having a CT Guided Injection

This leaflet will answer your questions about having a CT Guided Injection scan. It explains the benefits, risks and alternatives, as well as what you can expect when you come to hospital. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or other member of staff in the x-ray department.

## **What is a CT Guided Injection scan?**

It is used in the management of a patients' pain. The aim is to identify the exact source of the pain where surgery may be considered.

## **Do I need to do any special preparation before the CT scan?**

You do not need to do anything.

## **If I am diabetic, taking tablets or medicine, should I stop them?**

No. If you are taking prescription medication you should continue to take these as normal.

## **Is there anything I need to tell the staff before I have my scan?**

Please tell us if you think you may be pregnant.

In all cases, tell us if you have asthma, any allergies, or if you have had a problem with an injection for an x-ray or scan in the past.

## **What will I wear?**

Depending on the part of the body to be examined, we may ask you to remove some clothing and put on a hospital gown in a changing cubicle before the scan. We will let you know when you arrive.

If you can, wear loose fitting clothes with no metal fastenings like zips, poppers and hooks and eyes. This may save you having to change into a hospital gown.

You may wish to bring a dressing gown with you as we are unable to provide these.

## **What does the scan involve?**

The scanner is like a large doughnut and unlike some other scanning machines the CT scanner is not enclosed. In our experience, patients do not feel claustrophobic while having a CT scan because their head is outside of the scanner.

All you have to do is lie still on the couch. The couch slowly moves backwards and forwards through a large circular opening to allow pictures to be taken of the body area being injected.

## **What happens during the scan?**

When you arrive in the x-ray department we will ask you to complete a short pre-scan checklist to confirm your medical history. We will also ask you to change into a hospital gown.

This procedure takes around 30 minutes and requires you to lie face down on the CT scanning table.

The procedure is carried out under sterile conditions. The radiologist will insert a needle into your lower back using the CT scan.

We use a needle to inject anaesthesia and steroids. The effect of the anaesthetic lasts approximately 2 hours.

The steroid is to try and help your symptoms.

Following the procedure the Radiologist may ask you to go for a "short walk". This will provide the Radiologist with an indication if your symptoms have improved

The potential complications of this procedure, bleeding, infection and allergic reaction **are very rare.**

## **How long will the scan take?**

The scan will take about 30 minutes. This is mostly preparation time. However you should plan to be in the department for up to 1 hour.

Although we make every effort to meet our appointment times, delays may occur due to emergency patients. We will let you know if this is the case.

**Please note you will not be able to drive following the procedure**

## **Any other questions?**

Please ask a member of the team in the Imaging Department.

Please

- Do not bring any valuables with you
- Call us if you need advice
- Call us as soon as possible if you can't keep this appointment – we can make you another and give your appointment to someone else

## **Contact Centre Telephone Number**

0141 347 8379

[www.nhsgg.org.uk](http://www.nhsgg.org.uk)

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