

Parents and Caregivers, this education material is meant for you to read along with your child to help prepare them before their procedure.

CT Scan



Bed and the CT scanner

What is a CT scan?

A CT (Computed Tomography) scan, is a camera that takes pictures of the inside of your body. It takes pictures of many parts of the body, like your brain, bones, or stomach.

Getting ready for your CT scan

Depending on how old you are, you might get some medicine that will help you feel sleepy during the pictures.

(*Parents-* If your child will be receiving anesthesia or sedation; special instructions will be given at the time of scheduling.) You can bring a special toy like a teddy bear or blanket to hold during your pictures.

What will happen during the CT scan?

The CT scanner looks like a large doughnut, but it's just a camera. For your pictures you will lie on a bed. The bed will move slowly through the middle of the circle while it takes pictures. The CT scanner will not touch you and the pictures do not hurt. The only sounds the camera makes are swishing noises, like a clothes dryer. Your family will be able to stay in the room with you during the pictures (Women that are pregnant will not be able to stay in the room during the scan). The most important job you have is to hold **really still**. There are soft seat belts to help you do this so the pictures of your body are not blurry.

For some kinds of pictures we use a liquid called contrast to help us see the pictures. The contrast looks like water. The contrast will go into your vein; those are the blue lines you can see on the top of your hands. You will feel a pinch when the liquid goes into your vein, but it will be done fast. Your pictures will last about as long as one or two commercial breaks (5-15 minutes). After your pictures you are done and ready to go home or to school.