Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

NHS

Patient information

# Your CT scan

Your doctor has asked us to perform a computer tomography (CT) scan of your head and/or eyes. This leaflet is designed to provide you with more information about this scan and what will happen at your appointment.

A CT scan uses x-rays and a computer to create detailed cross-sectional images of bone, soft tissue and blood vessels.

## How long will my appointment be?

Your appointment should last no more than 15 minutes.

## What will happen at my appointment?

When you arrive at your appointment, we will check your details and ask a few questions about any allergies and previous medical history. We will also ask you to remove any metallic items from near your eyes, such as earrings, hair clips and spectacles as these can interfere with the image.

During your scan you will be asked to lie on your back with your head positioned in a headrest. Unlike an MRI scan, where you are placed inside a tunnel, you shouldn't feel claustrophobic.

The radiographer performing the scan may give you an injection of x-ray dye, also known as contrast media. This dye enables certain structures such as blood vessels to be seen more clearly. The injection is given through a small cannula placed in a vein in your arm and may give you a warm sensation which passes quickly.

## Are there any risks to having a CT scan?

A CT scan involves exposure to radiation in the form of x-rays. The amount of radiation you are exposed to during the CT scan is very small. In excessive amounts, x-ray radiation can increase the risk of cancer.

This information can be made available in alternative formats, such as easy read or large print on request. Please call PALS: 020 7566 2324/ 020 7566 2325

The doctor who has requested your examination believes that the benefit of the scan outweighs the risks that are involved, but please discuss this if you have any concerns.

## What happens after my scan?

After the scan, some patients need to return to A&E or clinic, where their doctor will be able to review the results. Others go straight home. If you are going home, please check that you have a follow-up appointment booked. The results of your scan will be discussed at this follow-up appointment.

## Where is the CT department located?

The x-ray and CT department is located on the ground floor of Moorfields Eye Hospital, 162 City Road, London, EC1V 2PD.

## Further information

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the radiology team. You can contact us via the main switchboard on 0207 253 3411, extension 2064.

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**Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**
**City Road, London EC1V 2PD**
**Phone: 020 7253 3411**
**www.moorfields.nhs.uk**

## Moorfields Direct telephone helpline

Phone: 020 7566 2345
Monday - Friday, 8.30am - 9pm
Saturday 9am - 5pm
Information and advice on eye conditions and treatments from experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

## Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

Phone: 020 7566 2324 or 020 7566 2325
Email: moorfields.pals@nhs.net
Moorfields' PALS team provides confidential advice and support to help you with any concerns you may have about the care we provide, guiding you through the different services available at Moorfields. The PALS team can also advise you on how to make a complaint.

## Your right to treatment within 18 weeks

Under the NHS constitution, all patients have the right to begin consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks of being referred by their GP. Moorfields is committed to fulfilling this right, but if you feel that we have failed to do so, please contact our patient advice and liaison service (PALS) who will be able to advise you further – see above for contact details. For more information about your rights under the NHS constitution, please visit www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs.