

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE CT SCAN?

After your CT scan, you are free to eat and drink normally. If you have had an injection, the contrast is absorbed and passed out of your body in your urine during the next 8 to 10 hours. Drinking plenty of fluids will assist this.

You should be able to drive a car and return to your normal activities.

## CT SCAN RESULTS

A CD containing your images is usually available shortly after your scan is completed. If further processing of your images is required, we will advise you at the time of your scan. We will send the report directly to your doctor according to their preferred delivery method. If you wish to take the images and report with you, you will need to allow at least 2 hours after the examination has been completed. Due to their complexity and circumstance, some cases may require more than 2 hours. Please check with the Radiographer at time of completion.

## RADIATION SAFETY

CT procedures use x-ray radiation. Too much radiation can cause damage to cells within the body. A CT examination is only requested by your doctor after carefully considering the possible benefits of you having the scan versus any risk.

At SKG Radiology, we subscribe to the ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) principle. This means we use the latest in CT dose efficient technology to give you the minimum dose necessary to provide the diagnosis.

## WHERE CAN I HAVE A CT SCAN?

### SKG BUNBURY

55 Spencer Street, Bunbury  
T: 9722 3200 F: 9721 5385

### SKG COCKBURN

Cockburn Health & Community Centre  
5 / 11 Wentworth Parade, Success  
T: 9494 3500 F: 9499 3597

### SKG CURRAMBINE

1 / 1 Hobsons Gate, Currumbine  
T: 9301 7000 F: 9304 0387

### SKG DUNCRAIG

Suites 3-5, 54 Arnisdale Road, Duncraig  
T: 9246 8800 F: 9448 0508

### SKG FREMANTLE

201 High Street, Fremantle  
T: 9435 9500 F: 9430 6693

### SKG HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood Private Hospital  
115 Monash Avenue, Nedlands  
T: 9449 5800 F: 9389 8112

### SKG KELMSCOTT

2964 Albany Highway, Kelmescott  
T: 9495 9300 F: 9495 4117

### SKG MANDURAH

160 Pinjarra Road, Mandurah  
T: 9582 4500 F: 9534 8502

### SKG MIDLAND

164-168 Great Eastern Highway  
T: 9218 6600 F: 9218 6680

### SKG MORLEY

Units 5 & 6, 11-13 Marchant Way, Morley  
T: 6278 0400 F: 9375 1148

### SKG MT LAWLEY

St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital  
Thirlmere Road, Mt Lawley  
T: 9471 6900 F: 9471 6955

### SKG MURDOCH

St John of God Medical Clinic  
100 Murdoch Drive, Murdoch  
(ent. off Barry Marshall Pde - Gate 1)  
T: 9333 9200 F: 9333 9286

### SKG ROCKINGHAM

8b Leach Crescent, Rockingham  
T: 9527 0000 F: 9592 5097

### SKG SUBIACO

St John of God Subiaco Hospital  
12 Salvado Road, Subiaco  
T: 9286 6400 F: 9286 6481

### SKG VICTORIA PARK

771 Albany Highway, Victoria Park  
(ent. off Sussex Street)  
T: 6253 9100 F: 9362 2096

### SKG WEMBLEY

5 Station Street, Wembley  
T: 9489 0800 F: 6380 2036

### SKG WEXFORD

Wexford Medical Centre  
Suites 10-12, Barry Marshall Parade,  
(Gate 2), Murdoch  
T: 6436 2500 F: 9332 0047

### SKG WILLETTON

Unit 1, 187 High Road, Willetton  
T: 9354 0900 F: 9457 4934

### SKG WOODVALE

3 Castlegate Way, Woodvale  
(cnr. Ocean Reef Road & Trappers Drive)  
T: 9408 3600 F: 9309 5535

## YOUR GUIDE TO

# CT SCANNING



## WHAT IS A CT SCAN?

Computed Tomography (CT) is an x-ray examination performed with a computerised x-ray scanning machine. The CT scan looks at the body in cross section. To produce images, a narrow beam of x-rays is rotated around the part of your body to be examined. The x-ray beam is monitored and recorded by an array of sensitive detectors which channel the signals to a large computer within the scanner. The computer then generates a visible image of the cross section of the body region being examined. The resulting images may be copied on to CD or sometimes printed to film. All studies are also archived long term for your future care within SKG Radiology.

## WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE THE CT SCAN?

You will need to make an appointment for the examination. When you make the appointment, you will be told if any preparation is required. You may be asked to fast or to drink oral contrast prior to the study (this may require you to arrive earlier for your appointment).

We may ask you to remove your hairclips, earrings, pins, chains or other items of jewellery before the examination, as these can sometimes interfere with the scan. We may also need you to change into a gown, depending on the type of examination being performed.

You may be asked to sign a consent form prior to the procedure.

Please let us know if you have a history of kidney disease, as it may be necessary for you to have a blood test prior to your appointment to test your kidney function.

## WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Please be sure to bring along any previous x-rays, CT scans, ultrasound or MRI examinations which you may have available. These images can often provide valuable additional information to the attending Radiologist when your scan is reported. All images are your property and will be returned to you.

Also, please bring the referral form from your doctor which instructs us as to why the scan has been requested.



## WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE CT SCAN?

For the CT procedure, you will be asked to lie on the scanner table. The part of your body to be examined will be positioned in the scanner opening. You may hear a humming noise which sounds like mechanical movement during the scan but no moving parts will touch you. There will be no discomfort. For some examinations, you will be given breathing instructions.

Whilst your appointment duration is for 15 minutes, most examinations will only take a few minutes. During that time, the imaging technician is optimising the scanner settings to suit the area of interest. The actual scan time lasts about 5-10 seconds. Several scans may be required to complete your examination. During the scan, the technician can see and hear you at all times, as there is a 2-way microphone built into the scanner. Some patients experience slight claustrophobia, but the CT room layout and décor has been planned to minimise this.

Sometimes an intravenous injection of contrast material will be required, depending on the area being examined. The contrast can provide valuable information by highlighting certain organs and blood vessels on the CT images. During the injection, you may notice a brief sensation of warmth and a medicinal taste or smell. These subside rapidly. You should be able to drive a car and return to your normal activities. Occasionally, other medications may be required. If so, this will be investigated prior to the scan.