



**Queensland
Government**

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET ONLY

NO DOCUMENTED CONSENT REQUIRED

Unless patient is renal impaired

Consent Information – Parent/ Patient Copy

CT-Computed Tomography

Child / Young Person

1. What is Computed Tomography?

Computed Tomography (CT) or 'CAT' scans are special x-ray scans that produce cross-sectional pictures of the body using x-rays and a computer.

CT is used when the doctor needs more information than what an ordinary x-ray can provide.

The CT machine looks like a large doughnut with a narrow table in the middle. The table moves through the circular hole in the centre of the scanner.



2. Will there be any discomfort, is any anaesthetic needed?

It is very important that you/your child lie very still for the procedure. Supporting straps, foam pads and light weights may be used to help with this. If unable to lie still, a general anaesthetic may be needed. If booked for an anaesthetic, please read **About Your Child's Anaesthetic - Information Sheet** (if you do not have this information sheet please ask for one).

3. Preparation for the procedure

The medical imaging department will give instructions on how to prepare for the procedure.

- Please tell the staff if you/your child is or suspect may be pregnant.

For Parent/Guardian/Adult

To prepare your child for the procedure and to ease their fears, tell them what they can expect to happen during the procedure. The information sheets will assist you with this

We welcome your help and support during the procedure.

- At the discretion of the medical imaging staff:
 - A parent/guardian/adult (unless pregnant) may be invited into the procedure room to support your child.
 - If your child is having a general anaesthetic you *may* be able to see them off to sleep. Once asleep you will be asked to leave the procedure room and wait in the waiting area.
- Other children are not allowed into the procedure room. These children must be supervised at all times by another parent/guardian/adult.

4. During the procedure

You/your child will be positioned on the CT table by the CT staff. The staff will not be in the room during the scan, but they will be able to see you/your child and speak with them via an intercom.

During the scan, the table move slowly through the CT scanner and a whirring or humming sound may be heard. You/your child should remain as still as possible, as the slightest movement can blur the pictures.

For some scans, you/your child will be asked to hold their breath.

The whole procedure takes approximately 10 to 20 minutes depending on what part of the body is being scanned.

5. Contrast

Sometimes, Contrast is given as part of the scan. Contrast allows the organs to be seen more clearly on CT. The Contrast can be given as a drink (Oral Contrast) and / or as an injection (Iodinated Contrast).

Oral Contrast is used to show the stomach and intestines of the body more clearly.

Iodinated Contrast is used to show the organs and blood vessels of the body more clearly. A fine needle (IV cannula) will be put into a vein in the arm, making it possible to inject the Contrast. Before the needle is inserted, a local anaesthetic cream may be applied, to numb the skin.

For more information on Iodinated Contrast and the risks involved in its use, please read the **Iodinated Contrast Information Sheet - Child/Young Person** (if you do not have this information sheet please ask for one).

6. After the procedure

The IV cannula will be removed (if inserted).

7. What are the risks of this specific procedure?

The risks and complications with this procedure can include but are not limited to the following.

Common risks and complications include:

- Minor pain, bruising and/or infection from the IV cannula. This may require treatment with antibiotics.

Less common risks and complications include:

- The procedure may not be possible due to medical and/or technical reasons.

Rare risks and complications include:

- An increased lifetime cancer risk due to the exposure to x-rays.
- Death as a result of this procedure is very rare.

Consent Information – Parent/ Patient Copy

Iodinated Contrast

Child / Young Person

1. What is Iodinated Contrast?

The medical imaging procedure your doctor has asked you/your child to have uses Iodinated 'Contrast' (once called X-ray dye). Contrast is a colourless liquid which includes iodine. Contrast is injected into the blood stream to allow organs to be seen more clearly on x-rays. Contrast is not a dye. It does not stain the inside of the body. The doctor needs to use Contrast to be able to get all the information needed to assist with the diagnosis.

This information sheet must be read together with the information sheet on the procedure you/your child is booked for (if you do not have this information sheet please ask for one).

2. During the procedure

When the Contrast is injected the patient may feel:

- A very warm or 'flushed' feeling over their body, this may also make them think they have passed urine. They will *not* pass urine – it is only a feeling.
- A 'metallic' taste or smell may also happen. This usually lasts less than a minute.

3. After the procedure

It is recommended that you/your child drinks 2 to 4 glasses of water after the procedure to help flush the Contrast from the body.

Contrast will not affect the patient's ability to carry out normal activities; they should be able to continue with their day as normal.

4. Precautions

As Contrast is not suitable for some people, you will be asked a series of questions about you/your child before the Contrast is given.

The answers allow staff to identify any risk factors that you/your child may have.

Kidney function

- Contrast is removed from the blood by the kidneys through the urine. It is easily removed from the body if you/your child has normal kidney function.
- Giving the Contrast to children with weakened kidneys (renal impairment), can cause further kidney damage, which may in turn cause the kidneys to stop working properly (acute renal failure).
- You/your child may be asked to have a simple blood test to find out the level of their kidney function.

Drug interactions - Metformin

(Brand names: Avandamet, Diabex, Diaformin, Formet, Glucohexal, Glucomet, Glucophage, Glucovance, Metforbell)

If kidneys suffer damage from the Contrast then the kidneys may not be able to remove Metformin from the body. It is safer to briefly stop taking Metformin when

having Contrast. Staff will inform you when to stop the Metformin and when it is safe to take it again.

Contact your GP to monitor your/your child's diabetes if you are told to stop their Metformin.

- Please tell the staff if you/your child is or suspect may be pregnant or is breast feeding.

5. What are the risks of Iodinated Contrast?

The risks and complications with this injection can include but are not limited to the following.

Common risks and complications include:

- No known common risks.

Less common risks and complications include:

- Injected Contrast may leak outside of the blood vessel under the skin and into the tissues. This may require treatment. In very rare cases, further surgery could be required if the skin breaks down.
- Acute Renal Failure occurs when one or both of the kidneys suddenly stop working. Failure can last for days or weeks. It may take a long time for the kidneys to regain their previous level of function and dialysis may be required to filter the blood during this time. There is a risk that kidneys could be permanently damaged. To reduce this risk the smallest possible dose of Contrast will be given.
- The injection may not be possible due to medical and/or technical reasons.

Rare risks and complications include:

- Allergic reactions occur within the first hour with most happening in the first 5 minutes. Late reactions have been known to occur up to a week after the injection.

Note: Allergy to topical iodine and/or seafood does not imply an allergy to Iodinated Contrast.

The reactions vary from:

Mild –hives, sweating, sneezing, coughing, nausea.

Moderate – wide spread hives, headaches, facial swelling, vomiting, shortness of breath.

Severe – Severe reactions are rare but include: life-threatening heart palpitations, very low blood pressure, throat swelling, fits and/or cardiac arrest.

- Death as a result of Iodinated Contrast is very rare.

6. What are the safety issues when you/your child leave hospital?

Go to the nearest Emergency Department or GP if you/your child become unwell.

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