

## **IF MY CHILD NEEDS GENERAL ANAESTHESIA (G.A.) FOR CT SCAN CONFIRMATION OF ADMISSION**

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### ***3 Working Days before Admission***

Please phone ☎ (08) 8161 7666, 9am to 4pm, Monday-Friday (except public holidays) to confirm your child's booking.

If you do not confirm the booking, your child's operation / procedure may not go ahead on the scheduled date.

### **FASTING**

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Having food or drink in the stomach can be dangerous both during and after the anaesthetic, as stomach contents may enter the lungs. For this reason, the hospital has general guidelines stating when children should stop eating and drinking.

These are as follows:

- **Children older than 6 months of age**

Fast from food or milk for **6** hours.

Cordial or water may be given until **2** hours before the scheduled time of the procedure.

- **Babies less than 6 months of age**

Fast from breast milk or formula for **4** hours.

Sweet / clear fluids or water may be given until **2** hours before the procedure.

\* However, your child's circumstances may vary from this, and you will be specifically advised about fasting times before the day of CT scan.

### **DISCHARGE TIMES**

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Children are usually discharged 1-2 hours after their CT scan. This may vary depending how well your child recovers from their anaesthetic and CT scan.

*Medical & nursing staff will explain your child's specific discharge care.*

## **CT SCAN RESULTS / REPORT**

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A written report will be sent within a few days to the doctor who requested your child's CT scan.

### **TRANSPORT HOME**

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If you live further than a **1 hour** drive from the hospital, you must make arrangements to stay in Adelaide overnight.

*A hospital bed can not be guaranteed.*

Transport home should be by private vehicle or taxi. Public transport is not recommended.

### **CAR PARKING**

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We recommend arriving early for all appointments.

Parking is available at the Kermode Street Car Park, opposite the hospital and charges an hourly rate. Car parking for people with disabilities is available.



Women's and Children's Hospital  
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Revised February 2008

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a smoke-free site

# CT SCAN

## Computerised Tomography Scan

### *Information for Families*

Division of Medical Imaging  
Phone: (08) 8161 6639

This information is a guide for families. We understand that a visit to hospital can be an anxious time.

### **WHAT IS A CT SCAN?**

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Computerised Axial Tomography (CT or CAT) scan is a sophisticated diagnostic method commonly used world wide to produce very detailed cross sectional pictures of the body. The body is scanned by an x-ray tube and information is transferred to a computer. The computer then transforms the data to produce high-resolution pictures of the body

### **WHERE DO I BRING MY CHILD?**

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Division of Medical Imaging, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

For CT scan under General Anaesthesia, please take your child to - DOSA Unit, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

*See following information 'If my child needs general anaesthesia for CT Scan'*

### **HOW LONG WILL THE CT SCAN TAKE?**

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Approximately, 10-30 minutes.

### **CAN MY CHILD EAT OR DRINK?**

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**Not if your child is scheduled for a CT scan under General Anaesthesia**

*See following information 'If my child needs general anaesthesia for CT Scan'*

For CT scans not requiring anaesthesia your child's preparation will vary depending on the type of scan.

- Some CT scans require no preparation.
- Intravenous contrast CT scans require your child to fast for 2 hours before their appointment.
- For CT scans of their abdomen, your child will need to drink a special mixture to make sure their bowel is visible to scan. Instructions to give your child this mixture will be given (or sent) to you when you make their appointment.

It is very important that you ask what preparation your child needs when you make their appointment.

### **WHAT TO BRING**

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- Referral letter or request form
- Medicare Card, Health Care Card or Private Health Fund Card
- Private X-rays, MRI, Ultrasound and CT films relating to your child's current condition. If you are unsure whether these will be useful, please bring them with your child.

### **WHAT CAN MY CHILD EXPECT DURING THE CT SCAN?**

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Your child will be asked to lie down on a cushioned table. Foam cushions and soft straps will be used to help your child keep still. Once your child is positioned comfortably the table will slowly move through a 'doughnut hole'. The radiographer will leave the room and will be in constant contact with your child via an intercom. The CT scanner will not hurt your child or be uncomfortable. The CT scanner sounds like a clothes drier. If your child has a CT scan of their chest or abdomen they may be asked to hold their breath for a short time.

It is very important that your child lies very still during the CT scan as any movement will blur the pictures and may affect the results.

### **WHAT IS INTRAVENOUS CONTRAST?**

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Intravenous contrast may be injected into your child's vein to provide more detail to the pictures. It is sometimes referred to as a dye but is a colourless liquid which passes through the blood stream and is usually excreted through the urine.

If it is planned to use an Intravenous contrast, a local anaesthetic cream may be put on to numb the area of skin where the intravenous needle / drip is to be put in.

Please arrive 45 minute prior to your child's appointment for this anaesthetic cream to be applied.

Before using the contrast a doctor or medical imaging staff member will discuss its use and possible side effects with you.

***Please tell the doctor if your child has a history of allergies, asthma, heart problems, diabetes or kidney disease (poor renal function).***

### **CAN I STAY WITH MY CHILD?**

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One parent / carer may accompany your child during the CT scan provided they wear a lead apron and all safety precautions are met.

Pregnant women may accompany their child into the CT room but cannot stay in the CT room during the scan.

For a CT scan requiring general anaesthesia one parent / carer may accompany your child to the anaesthetic room. Once your child is asleep you will be escorted from the CT room.

**Siblings** - to ensure patient safety & preparation for CT scan we recommend only 2 people accompany your child to hospital. We suggest you make alternative arrangements for any other children on the day of your child's CT scan.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD IS FRIGHTENED OR CANNOT LAY STILL?**

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A general anaesthetic is often required for infants, some older children and adults who find the CT scanner frightening or have difficulty lying still.

Please contact your child's doctor or the Division of Medical Imaging on ☎ (08) 8161 6639 if -

- your child is claustrophobic
- unsure your child will be able to keep still for the CT scan
- unsure your child is having general anaesthesia for the CT scan.

