

Having a cone beam CT scan of your teeth or jaws

Department of Radiology

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Information for Patients

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Introduction

This leaflet tells you about having a cone beam CT scan (or CBCT). It tells you what is involved and what the possible risks are.

Leicester's hospitals only have 1 cone beam CT scanner. It is in the X-ray Department at Leicester Royal Infirmary, Level 1 Balmoral Building.

What is a cone beam CT scan?

A CT (computed tomography) scan is an X-ray exam that gives much more information than a normal X-ray. A cone beam CT scan uses a special CT scanner that is smaller and faster than a regular CT scanner. It uses less radiation than a regular CT scan. A cone beam CT scan gives more detailed pictures than a regular CT scan or normal X-ray.

This type of scan is done when detailed pictures of your teeth or jaws are needed.

The cone beam CT machine looks just like a normal upright dental X-ray machine. The machine moves slowly around your head just once. It produces several hundred highly detailed pictures of the jaws and teeth.

How do I get ready for a cone beam CT scan?

If there is any chance that you may be pregnant, please contact the Radiology Department straight away. Your appointment may need to be rescheduled. If you do not call us for advice, your scan may be postponed after you arrive.

Please remove any jewellery from the area that is to be scanned. This includes any piercings on your face (nose, lips, tongue and ear area). This helps us to get the best pictures on your scan. It also helps to ensure we don't miss anything that could be hidden by jewellery. You can replace them with plastic ones before the appointment.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Who will be doing my scan?

A radiographer (or a few radiographers working together) will do the scan. Radiographers are people who have had training to take X-rays and scans.

As we are a teaching hospital a student may also be in the room. If you do not want a student in the room when you have your scan, please let us know.

What happens during the cone beam CT scan?

- We will check your details and tell you about the scan.
- We will ask you to sit inside the cone beam CT scanner. Part of the machine will move around your head.
- The scan takes about 1 minute.
- You must keep your head totally still during the scan.
- The scan is not painful.
- After the scan, we will check your pictures before you leave.

How long will it take?

The time taken will vary for each patient. The scan only takes about 1 minute. The whole process will usually be done in about 15 minutes.

What happens after the scan?

You can return to your usual daily life straight after the scan.

Possible risks from exposure to radiation in this scan

The main risk from exposure to X-rays is a higher risk of getting a cancer in the future. This risk is thought to be very small.

We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. This comes from the sun, the food we eat, and the ground. Each test that uses X-rays gives a dose on top of this natural background radiation.

The radiation from the X-rays during a CT scan is equivalent to receiving up to 2 weeks of natural background radiation.

The benefits of having this test are likely to outweigh any possible risks. The risks of not having the test could be greater. We try to keep your exposure to X-rays as low as possible.



How do I get the results?

You will not get the results straight away.

After your scan we will tell you who the results will go to and how to get your results.

- **Patients referred for this scan by a dentist:**

If you have been referred for this scan from your own dentist, you may be given a copy of the scan images on compact disc to take to your dentist.

- **Patients referred for this scan by a doctor in an outpatient clinic:**

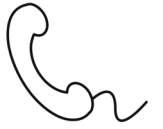
If you have been referred for your scan from an outpatient clinic, your scan images will be looked at by a doctor who specialises in medical imaging (radiologist). The results will be sent to the doctor who wanted you to have this scan.

- **Patients who are staying in hospital overnight:**

If you are an inpatient the results will be given to the doctor looking after you on your ward.

What if I need to talk to someone?

If you have any questions or concerns, or cannot make the appointment, please call the Radiology Department on **0116 258 8765 (option 3)** - Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (but not on bank holidays).



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على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل
જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk