

# Computed tomography (CT scan)

A CT or CAT scan takes special pictures of the body using X-rays. CT can show certain diseases, head injuries, and many other medical conditions.

## How we do a CT scan

A member of our team will meet with you. We will ask about your child's medical history and about medicines and allergies. We'll tell you about the CT scan and answer your questions. Your child will put on a hospital gown and remove all jewelry from the part we scan.

Your child will lie down on the table that slides into the scanner and will need to be very still during the pictures.

During the scan, the CT scan makes a funny noise. Your child will not feel anything during the scan.

For some scans, we ask your child to drink a special liquid. Sometimes we may need to give intravenous (IV) medicine.

## Starting an IV if needed

We place a small tube called an IV (intravenous) into a vein (usually in the hand or arm) and tape it in place. Please ask us about our comfort menu. We have numbing medicines and other

ways to help ease the discomfort and anxiety when starting IVs.

## It is important to lie very still

CT scans are very sensitive to movement. It is important for your child to lie very still while we take the pictures.

If your child is young or has a hard time holding still, we may need to give some sedation. Your doctor will order sedation when we schedule the CT scan.

If your child needs sedation, a nurse will call you for more information. Our radiology nurse will call the day before the exam with the preparation and arrival instructions.



CT scanner is a large donut-shaped machine.

## Child life specialist

A child life specialist may be available to explain the procedure to your child using special words, toys, and games developed for each age group. This helps children have a better understanding about what is happening during the exam.

Child Life also helps children relax with comforting stories and calming exercises.



### Child life specialist explaining the procedure

Please let us know if you or your family would like to visit with a child life specialist before the exam. You can call Child Life if you have any questions or concerns at 682-885-2677.

## Special instructions

Please report to Patient Registration at your child's scheduled **arrival** time.

Remove jewelry from the part we scan.

Your child can usually eat and drink before the procedure unless sedation is ordered.

Please call us as soon as possible if you are unable to keep your child's appointment.

A caregiver may stay in the room during the procedure **unless we use sedation**. Pregnant caregivers may not be in the scan room during the procedure.

Your child may bring a favorite toy or blanket to snuggle with during the scan.

Please do not bring other children. Your child will need all of your attention during the procedure.



For female patients 10 years and older, we need to complete a pregnancy questionnaire and may do a pregnancy test.

## After the CT scan

Your child may eat and drink as usual and return to normal activities if not sedated.

A Radiologist will read the exam and send the report to your child's doctor to review. Their office will share these results with you.

## Radiology

For contacts and locations visit:

[www.cookchildrens.org/services/radiology/contact-us/](http://www.cookchildrens.org/services/radiology/contact-us/) or



These instructions are only general guidelines. Your health care provider may give you special instructions. If you have questions or concerns, please call your health care provider