

Having a cone beam CT scan of your teeth or jaws

Department of Radiology

Information for Patients

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

What is a cone beam CT scan?

A cone beam CT scan is an examination that uses a special CT scanner that is smaller and faster than a regular CT scanner. The scanner uses X-rays but gives much more information than a normal X-ray. It also uses less radiation than a regular CT scan. This type of scan is done when detailed images of your teeth or jaws are needed which cannot be obtained from a regular CT scan or normal X-ray.

The machine used to produce the images looks just like a normal upright dental X-ray machine. The machine moves slowly around your head just once, but it produces several hundred highly detailed images of the jaws and teeth.

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

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

- If there is any possibility that you may be pregnant, please contact the Radiology Department immediately. Your appointment may need to be rescheduled. Failure to do so may result in your scan being postponed.
- It is important that any jewellery is removed from the area that is to be scanned. It is helpful if this can be done before your appointment. This includes facial and tongue piercings.

**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 the scan?

A radiographer (or several radiographers working together) will carry out the scan. As we are a teaching hospital, a student may also be present. If you wish you can ask that the student is not present during your scan.

What happens during the cone beam CT scan?

You will be asked to sit inside the cone beam CT scanner whilst part of the machine moves around your head. The scan takes about 1 minute. You must keep your head totally still during the scan.

How long will it take?

The time taken will vary for each patient, but the whole process will usually be done in about 15 minutes. This includes the time it takes for the radiographer to check your details, explain what is going to happen, position you in the machine, and check the pictures after the scan is complete. The scan itself only takes about 1 minute.

What happens after the scan?

You can return to work/ normal daily life straight after the scan.

Are there any risks?

A cone beam CT scan produces detailed images of jaws and teeth. The scan is not painful.

The main risk from having X-rays is an increase in the 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, food we eat, and the ground. Each examination gives a dose on top of this natural background radiation. The radiation from the X-rays during a cone beam CT scan is equivalent to receiving up to 2 weeks of natural background radiation to which everyone is exposed.

The benefits of this scan are likely to outweigh any potential risk, and the risk from not having the scan could be greater. We take all safeguards to minimise the amount of X-rays you receive.

How do I get the results?

The results will not be given to you immediately.

- **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 referred you for this scan. An explanation of how to get your results will be given to you after your 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.

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

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

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