The Christie at Oldham

Radiotherapy department scanner -
information about your radiotherapy
planning CT scan

What is a planning scan?
This leaflet explains what happens when you come for a radiotherapy
planning (RTP) scan. This is different from a diagnostic CT scan.

An RTP scan uses a CT scanner to produce cross-sectional images or
‘slices’ through the body using X-rays linked to a computer. These
images are used to plan your radiotherapy treatment.

If you need information in a different format, such as easy
read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other
communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and
based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details
about the sources used please contact patient.information@christie.nhs.uk

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham
or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.

Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice

The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

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use within the NHS only on the condition that The Christie NHS Foundation
Trust is acknowledged as the creator.
**Before your scan**

- Just eat and drink normally. If you do have to fast, we will tell you beforehand.

- When you arrive, we may give you a special drink called Gastrografin which outlines your stomach and bowel on the scan. If you need this, we will ask you to take the drink over a period of **ONE HOUR** immediately before the scan.

- If you have a **colostomy** please let us know when you arrive.

- A radiographer will take you into the scan room and explain all about the procedure.

- Unlike diagnostic scans you do not need to undress for the procedure.

- You can go to the toilet as normal.

**During your scan**

- The scanner is like a large ring with a large hole. The table moves through this hole. **The scanner is not a tunnel.**

- We will usually position you head first on the scanner table.

- The radiographers will guide you into the treatment position and draw some marks on your skin using a marker pen. These are the marks which will be used to set you up for your treatment.

- The table is motorised and it moves slowly through the scanner. The machine makes a noise similar to a washing machine. We can then take images or pictures at different levels throughout the body.

- It may be necessary to see your organs and vessels more clearly. To do this, we may have to give you an injection of a **contrast agent** (a colourless liquid) into your arm. The radiologist or radiographer will do this.

- When we are taking an image, we will ask you to lie still and breathe normally.

- Your scan should take about 10 to 15 minutes.

**After your scan**

- With your permission, the pen marks will be replaced with small permanent tattoos which will allow you to bathe and shower as normal.

- We will then give you your next appointment.

- It **may** be necessary for some patients to see the doctor for consent purposes.

- The whole procedure can take up to 2 hours. You will be able to drive yourself home.

If you have any questions, please contact us on 0161 918 7700.

You may wish to refer to The Christie at Oldham leaflet for more information.