

- It may be necessary for some patients to see the doctor or medical team for consent purposes.
- If you have been given a contrast injection you will be asked to remain in the department for 15 to 30 minutes after the scan to ensure that you are feeling ok.
- Please be aware you could be at the hospital for up to 2 hours depending on your scan requirements and if you require consent.

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

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.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. 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

The Christie at Oldham

Radiotherapy department scanner - information about your radiotherapy planning CT scan

What is a planning scan?

A radiotherapy planning scan uses a CT scanner to produce cross-sectional images or 'slices' through the body using X-rays linked to a computer. The scans which are undertaken to plan your radiotherapy are solely aimed to give enough information to plan the radiotherapy accurately.

Our priority is to ensure these X-rays benefit yourself and assist the consultant when planning your treatment. Please ask if you have any concerns.

You will be able to drive yourself home following your scan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the radiographer when you arrive or during your appointment.



Before your scan

- Please eat and drink normally. If you have to modify your meals, we will tell you beforehand. Although we would advise you to make sure that you are well hydrated before and after your scan.
- It is **sometimes** necessary to give you a special drink of contrast which outlines the areas of interest. The drink is given on your arrival, after completing a health questionnaire and will usually take **1 hour** to drink.
- It also **may** be necessary to see your organs and vessels more clearly. To do this we **may** have to give you an injection of **contrast agent**. The radiographer will do this via a cannula in the back of your hand or arm.
- When you arrive, a radiographer will take you into the scan room and explain all about the procedure.
- You will not need to fully undress for the procedure. We will ask you to undress in the area being scanned, and we will ensure we maintain your dignity and modesty.
- You can usually go to the toilet as normal. However, sometimes we ask you not to empty your bladder prior to your scan. If this is the case, we will tell you when you arrive.
- If you take regular pain relief, please bring this medication with you in case there are any delays in the department.
- **Please let the radiographer know if there is any possibility that you may be pregnant.**

About X-rays and radiation

- Everyone receives some ionising radiation every day from background radiation. This comes from our environment.
- Your age and size will influence the amount of radiation used.
- We ensure the amount of radiation we use is as low as possible.

- Our CT equipment is regularly maintained and is subject to checks by both the radiographers and the medical physics teams.

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.**
- The radiographers will guide you into the treatment position and draw some marks on your skin using a marker pen. An appropriate position will be determined at the scan, normally on your back. Please let us know during your appointment if you are struggling with this position.
- The table is motorised; it moves slowly up and down through the scanner. These movements are fully controlled by the radiographers.
- During your scan you will not feel or see anything, However, the machine makes loud noises similar to a washing machine.
- The best thing you can do throughout your scan is to relax and breathe normally, unless specifically requested otherwise.
- During your scan, you are observed the whole time by the scanning radiographers to ensure that you are ok.
- Your scanning session will usually last between 15 - 30 minutes, however the radiographer will let you know if it will take any longer.

After your scan

- With your permission, we will replace the pen marks with small permanent tattoos which will allow you to bathe and shower as normal. The permanent marks are the size of a small freckle. These marks will be used to set you up for your treatment.
- You will receive your treatment appointments after your scan. **It is important that you tell staff if you are going to need hospital transport to get you to your future appointments.**