



### **CT Brain Preparation Requirements**

- You need to be nil per mouth for at least 6 hours prior to the procedure (i.e. no food or drink).
- U&E, creatinine and eGFR blood results need to be obtained prior to the booking.
- If you have any allergies, especially to iodine, or if you are pregnant, please inform the radiographer or medical secretary when you make your booking and before any scans are performed.
- Patients that are taking glucophage, metforman or a derivative of, usually stop their medication 24hrs before and after the CT examination. Please discuss with referring doctor.
- Your heart rate needs to be at an optimal level which may necessitate drugs being administered prior to the procedure.

This procedure provides a detailed examination of the brain and ventricular system (the fluid containing spaces in the brain). There are many indications but the most common are headaches, strokes and other neurological events, trauma and changes in mental function.

### **Preparation**

If the procedure requires intravenous contrast, you need to starve for at least 6 hours prior to the examination. You need to inform the receptionist/radiographer if you are allergic to iodine or if there is a possibility of pregnancy.

### **Procedure**

You will be required to lie on your back on the CT table with your head in a support holder, to limit movement. The table will slide slowly into the gantry ring. This is wide and short, and open at both ends so claustrophobia is not a problem. Depending on the indication, the initial scan may be followed by a repeat scan with the introduction of intravenous iodine-containing contrast medium. This improves the sensitivity of the scan and allows characterisation of certain lesions. An average examination lasts between 20 to 30 minutes.

### **After Procedure**

Normal activities may be continued.