

Paediatric Hearing Implant Programme: Having computerised tomography (CT) scan

The aim of this information sheet is to help answer some of the questions you may have about your child having a CT scan.

It explains the benefits, risks and alternatives of the procedure as well as what you can expect when you come to hospital. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to a doctor or nurse caring for your child.

What is a CT scan?

A CT scan will take a series of pictures of your child's body using x-rays. These pictures show cross-sections or slices of your child's body. They are put together by a computer and can be viewed on a screen. The scan shows a very detailed image of the inside of your child's body.

The CT scan is carried out in a large scanner (pictured below) and can be done while your child is awake, under sedation or under a general anaesthetic. Your consultant will decide with you what will be appropriate.

The scanning machine is like a large doughnut. Your child will need to lie on a motorised bed. This moves slowly through the 'ring' of the machine until the part of the body to be scanned is within the ring. The x-ray machine within the ring rotates, emitting thin beams of x-rays through the body, which are then picked up by the x-ray detectors. Unlike some other scanning machines, the CT scanner is not an enclosed space. The scan is performed as a day case – this means your child will not have to stay in hospital overnight.



Pictured left: a CT scanner

What are the benefits?

A CT scan will show the bony structures of the hearing pathway and may be carried out in addition to a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan to allow the surgeon to recommend the appropriate treatment options for your child.

What are the risks?

As with x-rays, CT scans use radiation. The level of radiation used is very small and the benefits of the scan are thought to outweigh any risks.

It is vital that your child lies still in order for us to get good images, so there is a chance that a general anaesthetic or sedative may be required. This will be discussed with you by the doctors.

Giving my consent (permission)

We want to involve you in all the decisions about your child's care and treatment. If you decide to go ahead, you will be asked to sign a consent form. This confirms that you agree to have the procedure and that you understand what it involves.

You should receive the leaflet, **Helping you decide: our consent policy**, which gives you more information. If you do not, please ask us for one.

What happens before the procedure?

You will be contacted by phone or letter by a member of the hearing implant team and the ENT admissions team.

If your child is to have sedation or a general anaesthetic you will be asked to go to the Evelina Children's Hospital at a specific time and to a specific ward with instructions for your child to be 'nil by mouth'. This means that they will not be allowed to eat or drink for six hours before the procedure, but can drink water up to two hours before the procedure – please see our leaflet, **Your child's general anaesthetic** for more details.

If your child does not require any sedation or anaesthetic you will be asked to go straight to the Radiology Department, 1st Floor, Lambeth Wing, St Thomas' Hospital.

If you live a long way from the hospital, please ask the hearing implant team to arrange accommodation in Gassiot House, on the St Thomas' site, the night before. A maximum of one adult can stay with the child in the accommodation.



What happens after the procedure?

You will be kept on the ward until your child has had something to eat and drink and then you will be free to go home. The scans will be studied and reported on by a radiologist. The radiologist will then send the results to the hearing implant team doctors, who will discuss the scan and results at a team meeting before arranging to meet with you to offer feedback.

Will I have a follow-up appointment?

A follow-up appointment with the team will be arranged to discuss the scan results.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the auditory implant programme on **020 7188 6245**. The radiology department can be contacted on **020 7188 5464**. Both lines are open 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets**

Further information

Pharmacy Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please speak to the staff caring for you or call our helpline.

t: 020 7188 8748 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

To make comments or raise concerns about the Trust's services, please contact PALS. Ask a member of staff to direct you to the PALS office or:

t: 020 7188 8801 at St Thomas' **t:** 020 7188 8803 at Guy's **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

Language Support Services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch using the following contact details.

t: 020 7188 8815 **fax:** 020 7188 5953

NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 111

NHS Choices

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

w: www.nhs.uk