

## Patient information factsheet

# Radiotherapy CT scan (IV contrast)

We have given you this factsheet because you have an appointment for a CT scan.

### What is a CT scan?

CT stands for computerised tomography and uses x-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of the body. The scan will be used to plan your radiotherapy treatment, which means working out how much radiation you need to treat the cancer and exactly where you need it.

### On the day of your CT scan

- You must not eat for **two hours** before your appointment, but please do drink water.
- Please continue to take any medication as normal.

### When you arrive please report to:

Radiotherapy reception  
Level A  
Southampton Oncology Centre  
Southampton General Hospital  
Tremona Road  
Southampton  
SO16 6YD

When you arrive in the radiotherapy department, we will insert a cannula (a thin, plastic tube) into a vein in your hand or arm. We will then give you an injection of intravenous (IV) contrast via your cannula. IV contrast is a special dye that helps your blood vessels show up clearly on the CT scan.

The IV contrast injection can make you feel:

- hot and flushed
- like you have a metal taste in your mouth
- like you are passing urine (peeing), but you're not

These feelings usually pass quickly.

If you have any questions about the IV contrast, please ask a member of our team.

We **may** also give you a flavoured liquid to drink. This liquid contains a harmless dye that helps your bowel show up clearly on the scan. Your scan will then take place approximately 30 minutes later.

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## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Radiotherapy reception

Telephone: **023 8120 8568** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

## Useful links

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/radiotherapy](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/radiotherapy)

[www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/treatment/radiotherapy/external/planning/your-planning](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/treatment/radiotherapy/external/planning/your-planning)

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