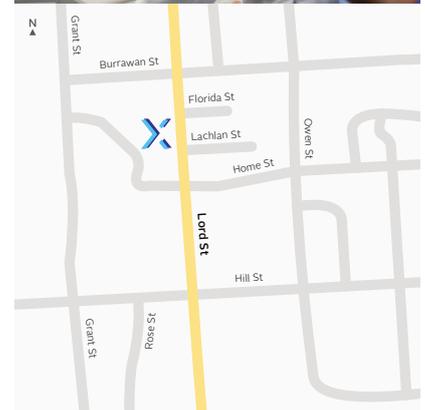
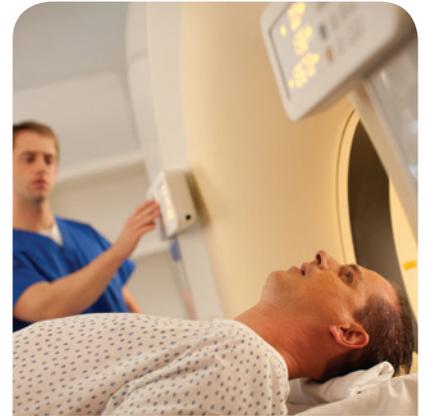


Low Dose CT Scanning

Computerised Tomography (CT or sometimes called a CAT scan) uses X-Rays to create detailed cross-sectional images of the body.

All CT scanners use radiation (X-Rays) to create images of the body. The CT scanner installed at Port Macquarie X-Ray is a **low dose** CT scanner, which uses latest technology to minimise the amount of X-Rays needed to perform the scan.

CT scanning is used to detect a range of disorders and can be used to scan most body parts. In particular, it may be used to diagnose subtle fractures, tumours, tiny kidney stones or strokes. CT is also used to look at the lungs, major body organs and bowel.



PORT MACQUARIE X-RAY

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HOW DOES CT WORK?

CT uses x-rays to measure the relative densities of structures in your body and displays this information as a black and white picture. Structures with very low density such as air in the lungs are displayed as black. Structures with very high density such as bone are displayed as white.

WHAT IS LOW DOSE?

The Philips Ingenuity Low Dose CT Scanner at PMXR uses an advanced reconstruction technique that enables the operator to customise the scanning technique for each patient, maximising image quality whilst minimising the radiation dose. This provides a unique approach to managing patient care and a new era in low energy, low dose and less injected contrast volumes.

WHO DOES MY CT SCAN AND REPORT?

The person who operates the equipment is a Radiographer. They are university trained and accredited with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). The person who views and interprets the scans is a doctor specialising in Radiology, known as a Radiologist. The Radiologist will prepare a report for your doctor.

Low Dose CT Scanning

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN I HAVE MY CT SCAN?

At the clinic, after registering at reception you will be taken to a change room. All metal objects, such as keys, clips, buttons, coins and mobile phones etc must be removed from the path of the x-ray beam.

You will then be asked to lie on the CT scanning table that will position you within the scanner. You must lie still during the scan as movement will blur the images. A series of planning scans will be performed at the start to localise the area of clinical interest. Following this, the main scan will be performed to obtain images used in diagnosis. This is usually completed within a minute or two, sometimes within several seconds.

Depending on your examination, you may be asked to hold your breath. An injection of x-ray contrast, sometimes called 'dye' may need to be administered through a small plastic tube (cannula) which is generally inserted into either a vein in your arm or the back of your hand. Again, this depends on the examination that is being performed, however as a general rule, this is required for most CT examinations of the neck, chest, abdomen and pelvis.

CONTRAST

You will be provided with a questionnaire/consent form when you arrive at Port Macquarie X-ray detailing the risks of the contrast medium (dye) used for this scan. The contrast will only be administered after you have given your consent (permission) to do so, which will be formally documented on the questionnaire/consent form with your signature. Once you leave the clinic, you may resume normal activities and diet.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS OR SIDE EFFECTS FROM MY CT?

Your doctor has sent you for this test knowing that the information provided by the scan is more beneficial than the very low risk associated with it. The skill of the operator and the design of the machine ensures you receive the lowest radiation dose possible. Female patients who are pregnant or think they may be

pregnant must advise the staff prior to the examination, as a CT scan is usually not performed during pregnancy unless it is an absolute medical necessity to do so.

There is a small risk of adverse reaction following injection of x-ray contrast. This would normally be evident while you are still in the clinic and would be treated appropriately by the Radiologist.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR MY CT SCAN?

Preparation for a CT examination can vary, such as fasting for 2 hours prior to your scheduled appointment time or taking some medication prior to the scan. This is dependent upon the body part being scanned. When you phone to arrange your appointment one of our friendly staff will advise you of the preparation and requirements. They may ask questions relating to previous injections and clinical history regarding asthma, allergies and diabetes.

WHAT IS THE COST OF LOW DOSE CT SCAN?

Most CT scans are eligible for a Medicare rebate. Depending on your personal circumstances, the Medicare rebate may not cover the entire cost of the scan, however, please discuss costs with our reception staff at the time of booking your appointment.

THINGS TO BRING ALONG TO MY APPOINTMENT:

- › Previous films for area of clinical interest.
- › Medicare or Department of Veteran Affairs card
- › Referral from your Doctor (this is a legal requirement).
- › Workcover details and claim number (if this is a Workcover claim)