



Having a CT scan for a CAPD leak

This leaflet is for patients who are having problems with their CAPD (Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis) and explains what happens during a CT scan for a CAPD leak in the Radiology (X-ray) Department at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The examination is conducted by a diagnostic radiographer (X-ray professional).

On the day of the scan

Please arrive 1½ hours before your appointment.

Please bring your appointment letter with you (if you have it) for when you check in.

Either an RDA (radiographic assistant) or radiographer (X-ray practitioner) will greet you in the waiting area and provide you with any information that is relevant to your examination. The examination is conducted by the diagnostic radiographer.

Please attend alone unless you have a social or clinical need.

What is a CT scan and why do I need one?

CT stands for computerised tomography. It uses X-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of your body. Your doctor has referred you for a CT scan to investigate whether your CAPD fluid is leaking into your peritoneal cavity.

Are there any risks with this test?

You will always be asked on the day if you are allergic to iodine (the intravenous contrast), but if you know you are allergic when you receive your appointment, please contact the radiology department on 0118 322 7991 to notify us.

This is a straightforward examination. As this is only a diagnostic procedure there are no expected risks associated with the scan. The scanner uses ionising radiation (x-rays) to produce the pictures. The scanner protocols are reviewed and optimised and the radiographers are trained to ensure the dose you receive is as low as practically possible.

Prior to the CT scan

You will need to attend the CAPD department prior to your appointment where an X-ray contrast (iodine based) will be added to a standard 2 litre bag of dialysate. The nurse will clamp off your catheter and remove the tip.

You will then be asked to walk around for 1 hour prior to attending the CT Department.

What happens during the CT?

You will be asked to lie on your back for the scan on the CT scanner table. The CT scanner consists of an X-ray tube that rotates around your body. You will usually be moved continuously through the scanner as it takes the pictures. The X-rays pass through your body and hit a series of detectors opposite the tube which then generate the pictures via a complex computer.

The scan itself is painless and will take a few seconds but the whole examination lasts approximately 15 minutes.

For this type of scan you do not need to be given an injection of IV iodine contrast.

After the CT scan

After the CT scan, you will need to return to the CAPD to have the fluid drained back out. After this, you should feel normal within yourself and should be able to go home.

Results

If you are having the CT scan for diagnostic reasons, then a report of your examination will usually be sent to your referring doctor. If this is a hospital specialist, then the specialist will contact your GP with the report.

Further information

www.nhs.uk/conditions/ct-scan/pages/introduction.aspx

Contacting us

Radiology Department Tel 0118 322 7991.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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Radiology Department, April 2025

Next review due: April 2027