

What is a CT Scan?

Let's find out!

Scroll down to learn more about your CT scan

**Saint Joseph's Children's Hospital
Marshfield, Wisconsin**



This is the CT scanner or the camera that is going to take pictures of the insides of your body! Some children say it looks like a donut.

Does it look like the camera you have at home? Probably not, but this camera does the same thing as your camera at home. This camera is just MUCH bigger and takes a different kind of picture.

Does it hurt when you get your picture taken at home? Nope! This one doesn't either! This camera will not touch you and it does not hurt you.

Does your camera at home make noises? Maybe quiet noises, but this camera can be kind of loud. Have you ever heard an airplane take off? Some children say that when the camera is taking your pictures it sounds like the WHOOSH of an airplane. [Click here](#) to listen to the noise the camera makes.



Sometimes you need special medicine so the doctors can see the insides of your body better. This special medicine is called contrast. Not everyone needs contrast.



One way to get contrast into your body is to drink it. The contrast can be mixed with juice or soda to make it taste better.

The other way to get contrast is to have it put through an IV. You can find out what an IV is by clicking on the link to learn more. When you get contrast through your IV it might make your body feel warm inside. Some children say it feels like they peed their pants, but that doesn't really happen!

Do you see the lady standing and watching? She is a CT technician and will be taking the pictures. The CT technician may be a lady or a man. Your friend will ask you to lay on the bed like the boy in this picture. Depending on what body part they need to take pictures of, you will either lay with your feet first, like the picture on the left, or your head first, like the picture on the right. Sometimes the CT technician will put a pillow under your head, like in the picture, or under your knees.



Do you see the hole in the camera? That is where the camera takes pictures of your body. The bed that you lay on will move up and down and in and out.



Do you see the grey strap that is around the boy's body? We call that your seatbelt. This bed is a little skinner than your bed at home, so the seatbelt helps you stay on the bed.

The bed will move you through the camera so it can take your pictures. Some children say it is a FUN ride! Remember-the camera does NOT touch you and does NOT hurt you!

Do you see the lady standing in the picture? She is the mom of the boy who is getting his pictures taken. Your mom (as long as she doesn't have a baby in her belly) or dad can stand right next to you and hold your hand too! If your mom or dad cannot stay in the room with you, you can ask your Child Life Specialist to stay with you. Whoever stays in the room with you will have to wear a funny looking vest because the doctors want pictures of YOU today not the person who holds your hand.



When the CT tech takes your pictures you have a special job to do! Your job is to hold VERY VERY still! If you move around too much your pictures will turn out blurry and will have to be taken over again. So the more you hold still, the faster you will be done!

Do you see the picture at the bottom? That is the room where the person that takes your picture sits. Your child life specialist will also wait in this room until you are finished with your pictures.

The camera should not take long to take your pictures. Your pictures will probably take less time than watching one episode of your favorite TV show!

Do you see the window that is in the picture? If you have a Child Life Specialist he or she will be able to see you through that window. The CT technician will also sit back here to take your pictures and will be able to see you through the window the whole time you get your pictures taken.

Do you see the computers in the picture? Your pictures will show up on those computers.



When you are all done, the CT technician pictures will move your bed out of the camera, take your seatbelt off, and help you off the bed. Then, if you don't have to see anymore doctors that day, you can go home and tell everyone about the pictures you had taken! You did it!



Things to Remember:

The camera will not touch you or hurt you!

The camera will make noises when it is taking your picture!

Your mom, dad, or Child Life Specialist (if you have one) can stay with you while you get your pictures taken!

Do you remember what your job is?

YOUR JOB IS TO HOLD VERY STILL!

Click on the link below to go to an interactive website that will help you learn more about having a CT Scan.

<http://radiology.starlightprograms.org/index.html>





Saint Joseph's *Children's* Hospital

MINISTRY HEALTH CARE

MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

**Created by: Lindsey Lohmiller
Child Life Intern
Spring 2009**

**Saint Joseph's Children's Hospital
Marshfield, Wisconsin**