

## WHAT IS A COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT) SCAN?

A Computed Tomography (CT) scan combines special X-ray equipment with powerful computers to produce multiple cross-sectional images of the inside of your body.

CT images are very high resolution and allow us to provide a clear and accurate diagnosis to your doctor. CT has many uses including detailed investigation of the lungs, body organs, and glands, and can also be used to guide injections.

A CT examination generates up to 2000 images per scan. Our doctors carefully review those images and often reconstruct 3D images to aid in the report.

At Envision we have Perth's only dual source 64-slice CT scanner. Dual source means we have "double the temporal resolution" or "half the blur", which allows us to get the best possible images. Our scanner protocols are designed to generate clear images at the lowest possible radiation dose.



### **What happens during my CT scan?**

#### **Pre-procedure**

When making your booking for a CT scan you may be asked to fast for a short period of time, or to arrive early so a special drink can be given to you prior to your images being taken. If there is any chance you may be pregnant, please inform us before your scan.

Some scans require you to fill out a questionnaire regarding your health status, medication, and any known allergies. You may also be asked to change into a gown and remove some jewellery for your scan.

Most CT scans only take 10-15 minutes to perform, although the scan itself lasts less than a minute or two.

#### **Procedure**

When you are transferred to the CT room you will be made comfortable on the examination table. The examination table slides you into the centre of the CT machine and some preliminary pictures are taken to confirm the scan position.

Some examinations require an injection of X-ray dye (*contrast*) during the scan and this will be injected into a vein via a cannula (*a thin plastic tube, similar to a flexible needle*) in your arm - the scan is then performed while the dye is passing through your blood vessels. You may feel flushed during this injection.



### **What happens after my scan?**

At the end of the procedure the cannula will be withdrawn carefully from the vein and a bandaid applied. The dye will be flushed naturally by your body over the following 24 hours without you noticing it. You are free to eat and drink normally; we recommend you continue to drink plenty of fluids to assist your body in flushing the contrast. You will be able to return to your normal daily activities after your scan.

Do not hesitate to contact our office on 6382 3888 if you have any questions or concerns.