

Getting a CT Scan
With General Anesthesia
(Computed Tomography)
Photo Preparation Book



This is the Radiology Waiting Room. There are a lot of fun things to do in this room while you wait!

The people in this room are waiting for pictures called X-rays, Ultrasounds, scans, MRI's or CT's (just like you!)



Next, you will go to one of the registration desks. The patient services representative will let the technologists know that you are here.



You will also get a special bracelet that tells everyone who you are. Then you will go back to the waiting room.



Next, a nurse or PCT (Patient Care Technician) will walk you from the waiting room to your very own “get ready” room. On the way, you will get to see how much you weigh and how tall you are!



This is your “get ready” room. The nurse or PCT will check your temperature, your blood pressure, and how big of breaths you are taking.





The CT camera is a special kind of computer that takes pictures of the inside of your body.

The camera is inside the circle. You might hear noises, but the camera does not touch you!

Your most important job while you are getting your pictures taken, is to **STAY REALLY, REALLY STILL!!**



This is what a CT scan looks like!



Before you get your pictures taken your nurse will ask you to take off anything that has metal on or in it.

You will need to change into hospital pajamas.



To help you stay still, a doctor called an Anesthesiologist can give you medicine called General Anesthesia. The medicine will help you fall asleep.

This is a special kind of sleep. You will not hear anything, feel anything, or see anything while you are sleeping.

When the pictures are over, you will wake back up

You will breathe the medicine through a mask like this one.



We can put flavored Chapstick on the inside of the mask to make it smell good!

Ask your nurse which flavors are available today.



Your nurse will bring you and the grown-up you brought with you to the CT room.

You will sit or lie on the bed and the Anesthesiologist will give you the good smelling mask to wear.

When the pictures are done, you will wake up in a room just like the one you started in.



You will have an IV in your hand or your arm.

The doctor put the IV in while you were sleeping. You won't even feel it!

As soon as you can eat or drink something, the nurse will take it out. Ask your nurse about the drink, and snack options!

Additional Support

If your child has any special needs or health issues you feel the doctor needs to know about, please call the Department of Pediatric Radiology at Children's to speak with a technologist or Child Life Specialist before the test. (412) 692-5512.

It is important to notify us in advance about any special needs.

Preparing your child beforehand, as well as comforting your child during the test, will help your child have a more positive experience.

Sometimes it is difficult to know how to explain tests to children. These preparation books have been created to help you and your child feel as prepared as possible.

If you feel that your child will have difficulty during the test or needs a more developmentally appropriate explanation prior to their visit, please call the Department of Pediatric Radiology's Child Life Specialist (412) 692- 9532.