

Getting a CT Scan at *Hennepin Healthcare*

A GUIDEBOOK FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The CT Scanner



This is a CT scanner (also called a CAT scanner). The big donut shaped part of this machine is a camera that takes pictures of the inside of your body.

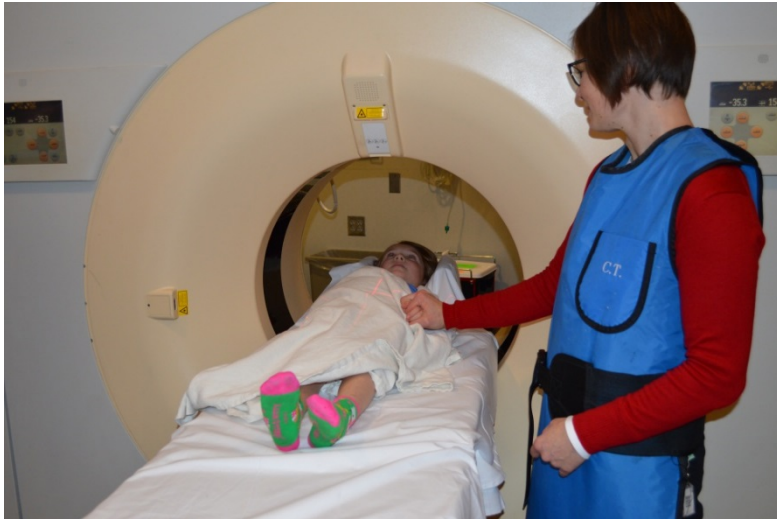
Getting Ready

You will lie down on a bed that moves in and out of the camera to make sure that we get pictures of the right part of your body.

What part of your body is getting its picture taken today?



Getting Ready



The camera will make humming noises while it takes pictures. It will not hurt or touch you.

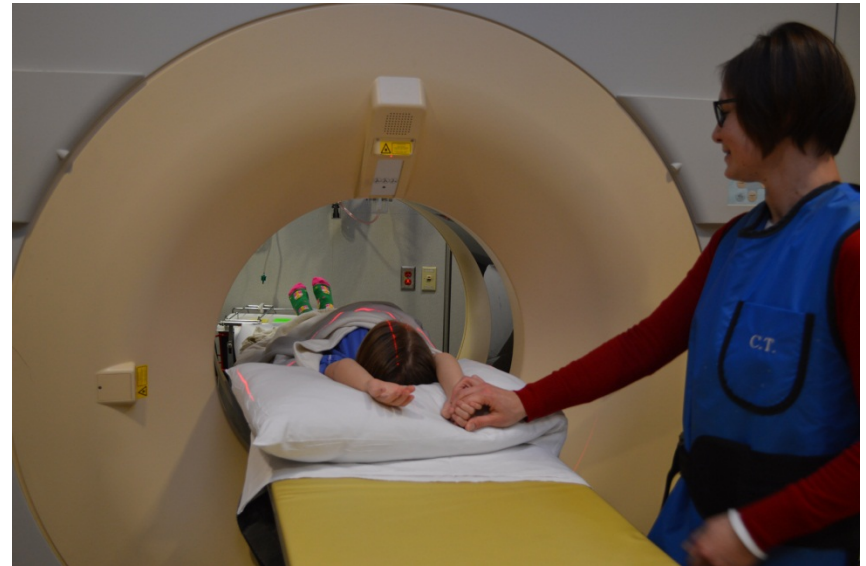
The bed will also move up and down, and in and out of the camera.

Your job while getting your pictures taken is to hold very still, like a statue!

This way, the pictures will be nice and clear, not blurry.

Getting Ready

Anyone who stays in the room with you will wear a lead apron.



The Control Room

Once you are all set up on the scanner's bed, the technologist will go into the control room.

There is a window between the control room and the CT room so the technologist will still be able to see you. They will also be able to talk to you through speakers in the CT room.

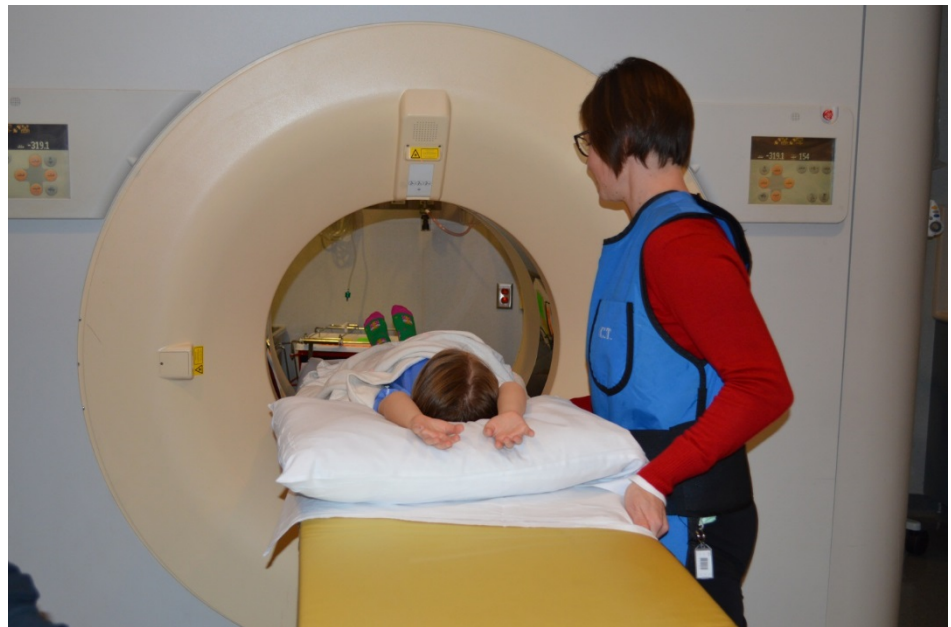


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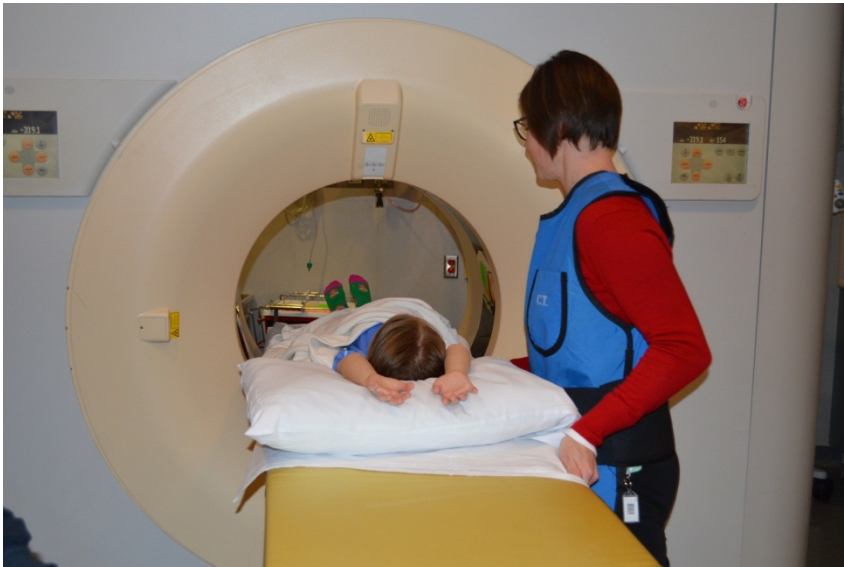
Picture Time!

When it is time to take your pictures, the technologist will push a button that will move the bed into the camera. You might be asked to hold your arms up above your head, or down at your sides.

Remember, your number one job is to **hold still** so that we can get clear pictures for your doctor.



Picture Time!



The CT scanner will take only a few minutes to take your picture. That's shorter than a cartoon show!

You can take slow, deep breaths to help you stay calm. Or you can think of your favorite place (like home or the beach).

What do you think you'll think about during your pictures?

Contrast

Some kids need a special medicine called contrast half-way through their pictures.

Contrast is a medicine that will go from this machine into your IV.

Some kids call it “xray juice” or “highlighter juice!”

It helps the doctors to really see a certain part of your body.



Contrast



When you get the contrast through your IV, you may feel really warm.

Some kids even say it feels like they've wet their pants. Don't worry, you won't wet your pants, and the warm feeling goes away very quickly!

All Done!

Once you are finished getting your pictures taken, someone will take you back to your room.

Great job holding still!

