

Cone Beam CT Scan (CBCT)

Your dentist has referred you for a Cone Beam CT Scan. This will take place in the Imaging Department (also known as Radiology or x-ray department) at Glasgow Dental Hospital and School.

What is a Cone Beam CT scan?

CT stands for computerised tomography. A Cone Beam CT scan takes a series of pictures of your teeth and jaw(s) using X-rays. The pictures show cross-sections or slices of your mouth. They are put together by a computer and we can view them on a screen. The scan shows a very detailed image of the inside of your teeth and jaw(s) in 3 dimensions. A Radiographer will perform the scan.

The Imaging Team

The Imaging team is made up of:

- reception staff,
- healthcare support workers,
- radiographers who perform the scan
- radiologists who report the scan

Do I need to do any special preparation before the Cone Beam CT scan?

There is no special preparation. We will ask you to remove all face, ear and neck jewellery. We will ask you to remove any removable appliances or dentures at the appointment especially partial dentures which contain metal. You do not need to remove any fixed orthodontic appliances e.g. braces.

The following special items only refer to some patients:-

- If your dentist has mentioned to you the need to wear a special appliance (stent) for the examination, and has given it to you, please bring it with you.
- If you have dentures, even if you do not always wear them, please bring them with you.

If I am diabetic, taking tablets or medicine, should I stop them?

No. If you are taking prescription medication you should continue to take this as normal.

Is there anything I need to tell the staff before I have my scan?

Please tell us if you think you may be pregnant.

What will I wear?

There is no need to change for this examination. We will ask you to remove any ear rings, necklaces or hair clips.

What does the scan involve?

We will ask you to stand or sit with in the Cone Beam CT scan machine, with your head supported, helping you keep still. The machine will then turn around your head. This helps your dentist to diagnose conditions or decide on further tests and investigations.

Will I get an injection?

No

How long will it take?

The scan will take around 30 minutes and the information from the examination will be available to your referring clinician soon after your appointment.

What are the risks?

As with all CT scans, a Cone Beam CT uses radiation. The level of radiation is very small and the benefits of the scan are thought to outweigh any risks.

Can I bring someone with me?

You can bring a friend or relative with you but we will not allow them into the examination room. Please note; we may ask them to wait in the main reception area.

If you need to bring your children please make sure there is also an adult with you as we are unable to provide childcare facilities.

After the scan

In most cases, as soon as the scan is finished you can go home.

You can eat and drink as normal and start your usual activities straight after the scan.

When will I know the result?

We will send the results to the person who referred you for the test. Your referrer will make arrangements to tell you the result.

Any other questions?

Please ask a member of the team in the Imaging Department.

Please:

- Do not bring any valuables with you
- Call us if you need advice

Call us as soon as possible if you can't keep this appointment – we can make you another and give yours to someone else.

Contact Centre Telephone Number

Tel: **0141 211 9647**

www.nhsgg.org.uk