CT Scan
You may have to put on a hospital gown.

You must take off anything that is metal.

You will have to lie on a bed.

The bed will move.
Try and relax.

Try to lie still.

You will be able to talk to the doctor while you are having your scan.
CT Scan Guidance Notes for Healthcare Professionals

What is a C.T. scan?
A CT scan (Computerised Tomography) takes pictures from all around the body and uses a computer to put the pictures together. The machine is shaped like a doughnut.

How does it work?
A CT scan uses X-rays to take lots of pictures of the body from different angles. The computer puts them together to give a series of cross sections through the part of the body being scanned.

What will happen?
- The patient may have to put on a hospital gown.
- They must remove all jewellery and anything that is metal.
- The patient may be asked to lie on their front, side or back.
- The radiographer will be able to talk to the patient through an intercom.
- The bed will move backwards and forwards through the machine.
- The patient can ask for the scan to be stopped at any time.
- Most scans last for about 30 minutes.

If the patient is very anxious about having the scan ring the department at least a week before the appointment and tell the radiographer. They may be able to give the patient a tablet or injection before the scan to make them feel more relaxed.

The patient may be given an injection of dye if they are having a scan of the head or chest area. This will make the scan clearer.

Can a CT scan be dangerous?
No, although you should not have a scan if you think you may be pregnant as it can be harmful to the baby.

The results
It can take time for the results of the scan to come through. If the patient has not heard within a couple of weeks ring the GP to see what is happening.