

If you are given an injection of Buscopan you may experience blurred vision for a while, but this will soon pass.

It is advised that if possible you ask somebody to drive you to and from the hospital for this examination.

### Other important information

Mannitol is licensed as an intravenous infusion (injected into the blood) but is widely used as a drink for bowel imaging after diluting it with water.

### Are there any risks?

Like all X-ray machines, a CT scanner produces potentially harmful X-rays. Modern CT scanners are designed to keep the radiation dose to the patient as low as possible.

If your doctor has asked for the scan they will have decided that the benefit of having the scan, and the information it gives, is greater than the risk of the small radiation dose.

There is an extremely small risk that the injection of Buscopan may have a delayed effect on the eye, causing pain and blurred vision. It is important to **seek urgent medical advice** if this occurs. Following the injection blurred vision may occur, but should soon pass.

Although the drink and injections given as part of this test are considered to be very safe there is a small risk that you may have an allergic reaction to them.

### When will I get the results?

A radiologist will look at your images and write a report which will be sent the doctor who referred you. You should hear within 1-4 weeks when they want to see you next, unless a follow up appointment has already been made.

### Contact us

If you have questions about your scan, please do not hesitate to contact us:

CT Scanning Department  
Clinical Imaging  
Royal Cornwall Hospital  
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Tel: 01872 252290

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690



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## CT Enterography



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## What is CT Enterography?

Your doctor has asked us to perform an examination of your small bowel using CT to help find the cause of your symptoms. CT stands for Computerised Tomography. It is a special kind of X-ray that gives very detailed pictures in a series of slices. These pictures give more detailed information than an ordinary X-Ray. Enterography describes the imaging of the small bowel.

To help us get the best pictures we can, we will ask you to drink a special liquid called Mannitol. Mannitol is a slightly sweet tasting liquid that will fill the small bowel and can be seen on CT scans. For this examination it is also necessary to give you a drug that relaxes the muscles of the small bowel and CT contrast (a special dye) which will improve the quality of the scan images. Both of these drugs will be introduced through a cannula (small flexible plastic tube) that will be placed in your arm.

Please arrive **1 HOUR before** your appointment time as this drink needs time to travel through your small bowel.

## Are there any alternatives?

The small bowel can be imaged in different ways. The alternatives involve drinking a liquid that makes the bowel visible on X-ray images. Alternatively the liquid can be introduced through a tube passed via the nose, through the stomach and into the upper part of the small bowel.

The small bowel can also be imaged using Capsule Endoscopy. This involves swallowing a capsule that contains a small camera which records pictures taken of the inside of the small bowel.

Compared to other imaging procedures of the small intestine, CT enterography is able to visualize the entire thickness of the bowel wall and to evaluate surrounding soft tissues.

## What will happen if I don't have this test?

Your doctor may find it more difficult to diagnose the cause of your symptoms.

## How do I prepare for the scan?

Please arrive **1 HOUR before** your appointment time and **do not have anything to eat on the morning of your examination, or for 6 hours prior to your appointment time.** You may drink liquids.

## What will happen?

On arrival you will be given the Mannitol liquid to drink. We will ask you to drink between one and two litres.

It is important to drink as much as you can to get the best possible images, you should expect to feel very full.

After about 40 minutes we will escort you into the CT scanning room, where we will place a cannula (small plastic tube) into a vein in your

arm or hand through which you will be given two drugs:

- **Buscopan** – reduces movement of your small bowel and helps to improve image quality. Please tell the radiographer if you have a condition called glaucoma (raised pressure in the eye) or any heart problems such as angina or irregular heart beat.
- **Omnipaque** – is an X-ray contrast agent (dye), which helps to improve the quality of the scan images.

Please let the department know if you have ever had an allergic reaction to X-ray contrast agents, Buscopan or Mannitol before the appointment day or before the scan takes place.

## How long will it take?

The time from starting to drink the liquid until completion of the test is usually about 1 hour. Please allow up to 2 hours as the drink can sometimes take longer than anticipated to travel to the correct area of the bowel.

## Are there any side effects?

You can expect to have some loose bowel motions for a time after consuming the drink. It will be similar to having diarrhoea and you need to ensure that you have access to a toilet that is close by for up to 24 hours following the test.

Some patients experience increased flatulence, abdominal cramps and nausea after consuming the drink.