

NHS Forth Valley

CT Pulmonary Angiogram (CT PA) Scan whilst pregnant

Patient Information Leaflet

A large, stylized blue wave graphic that spans the bottom half of the page, starting from the left edge and curving upwards towards the right.

Why do I need a CT PA Scan?

(Computed Tomography Pulmonary Angiogram)

Your doctor has requested this scan to look at your lungs. A CT PA scan will help to show if there is a blood clot in your lungs.

The CT scan involves the use of X-rays. Our overriding concern is to ensure that when you have an X-ray, the benefits from making the right diagnosis or providing the correct treatment outweigh any risk involved with the CT scan itself. Prior to your X-ray examination we make sure this is the case.

The reasons for the examination are:

- You may have a blood clot in the lungs. If this is not found and treated it could lead to a problem such as severe breathlessness, a stroke or even death.
- It will ensure you receive the correct treatment.
- The CT scan may indicate other important causes of your symptoms.

The request for a CT PA scan has been discussed with a Consultant Radiologist and the medical team caring for you. They consider that:

- The risks to you and your baby from having the examination are low
- The benefits from knowing what is wrong with you outweigh the risk
- You should be fully informed of all the risks and benefits involved with this examination.

What are the radiation risks to me?

Having the CT scan carries a low risk but this needs to be weighed up against the risk to you and your baby of an undiagnosed blood clot.

What are the risks to my baby?

The risks to your baby from the CT scan are very low.

There is no risk of the CT scan causing death, malformation or impairment of mental development.

Putting it in Perspective?

Each medical X-ray gives us an additional amount of radiation on top of the natural background radiation to which we are exposed. The amount varies with the type of examination.

CT scans use several times more radiation than a typical X-ray compared to what you might be exposed to naturally over a three to four year period.

The examination you are having today carries a low risk.

If you have any further queries please speak to your medical team in the ward prior to the CT examination.

You can refuse to have the CT scan if you do not feel you have sufficient information.

Acknowledgements:

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We are happy to consider requests for this publication
in other languages or formats such as large print or Braille.

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If you can't go let us know!

Every month around 2,000 people across Forth Valley fail to turn up
for hospital appointments. This costs the NHS millions of pounds
each year and increases waiting times.

So if you are unable to attend, or no longer require your hospital
appointment, please let us know so we can offer it to someone else.

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