

Colonic Transit Study



Radiology Department

This leaflet provides you with information about having a Colonic Transit Study. It explains what is involved and who you will meet.

This examination tracks the time that it takes for food to pass through the digestive system. This tracking is achieved by swallowing small markers that show on an x-ray image.

What preparation is required?

It is important that you eat and drink normally during the 6 day tracking period and do not take any laxatives just before, or during this 6 day period.

Women of child bearing age

This examination is not advisable for pregnant women. Please advise the x-ray department in advance if you think you are, or might be pregnant.

We enclose some capsules with your appointment letter, please follow the instructions below.

Day 1: Take two capsules labelled 1 at breakfast time.

Day 2: Take two capsules labelled 2 at breakfast time.

Day 3: Take two capsules labelled 3 at breakfast time.

Day 6: Attend your allotted appointment time for an x-ray of your abdomen.

Should you have swallowing difficulties, or for children over the age of 5, the capsules can be opened and the markers put into a soft food substance such as yogurt or ice-cream.

The Radiology Department

Radiology is also known as the X-Ray or Imaging Department.

Who will I meet?

- **Receptionist/Clerical Staff:** can help you make or change your imaging appointments and ensure your details are correct when you arrive for your appointment.
- **Radiographer:** a health care professional who will assist the radiologist.
- **Radiologist:** a specialist doctor who will interpret the images and report them for your consultant.

What happens when I arrive?

Please register at the reception desk, whereupon you will be directed to the waiting area.

If you attend your appointment wearing light clothing without any metal adornments, such as jogging bottoms or leggings, you may not need to change.

What happens during the examination?

The radiographer will ask you to lie on your back on the x-ray table. She/he will then position you in order to take an x-ray of the whole of your abdomen. You will be instructed to hold your breath for a second whilst the x-ray is being taken to prevent any blurring of the image.

Are there any risks or side effects to the examination?

The markers that you swallow will pass through your digestive system without any change to their structure; nothing will be absorbed into the body and therefore they pose no risk, or give any side effects.

As with all x-ray examinations, we endeavour to keep the exposure to radiation to the absolute minimum.

Is there an alternative examination?

No there is no alternative examination available.

Aftercare Advice

After the examination you can eat and drink normally.

When will I get the results?

The x-rays we take will be read after your visit and the results sent to your referring Doctor, which is normally within 14 days. If you already have a clinic appointment you will receive the results then, otherwise you will receive a letter with a date for a clinic appointment.

Privacy and dignity

We will try to make your visit to our department as comfortable as we can.

Patient survey

We value your opinion on our service and in order to deliver, maintain and improve this service we ask you to complete a short patient questionnaire found on the appointment letter. Completion of this survey is entirely voluntary.

Reference source

- Chapman and Nakielnys guide to radiological procedures

Contact

If you have any questions or would like to know more about this examination, please contact the Radiology Department on:

01483 571122 ext: 2050 or 01483 464150

Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please contact us as soon as possible.

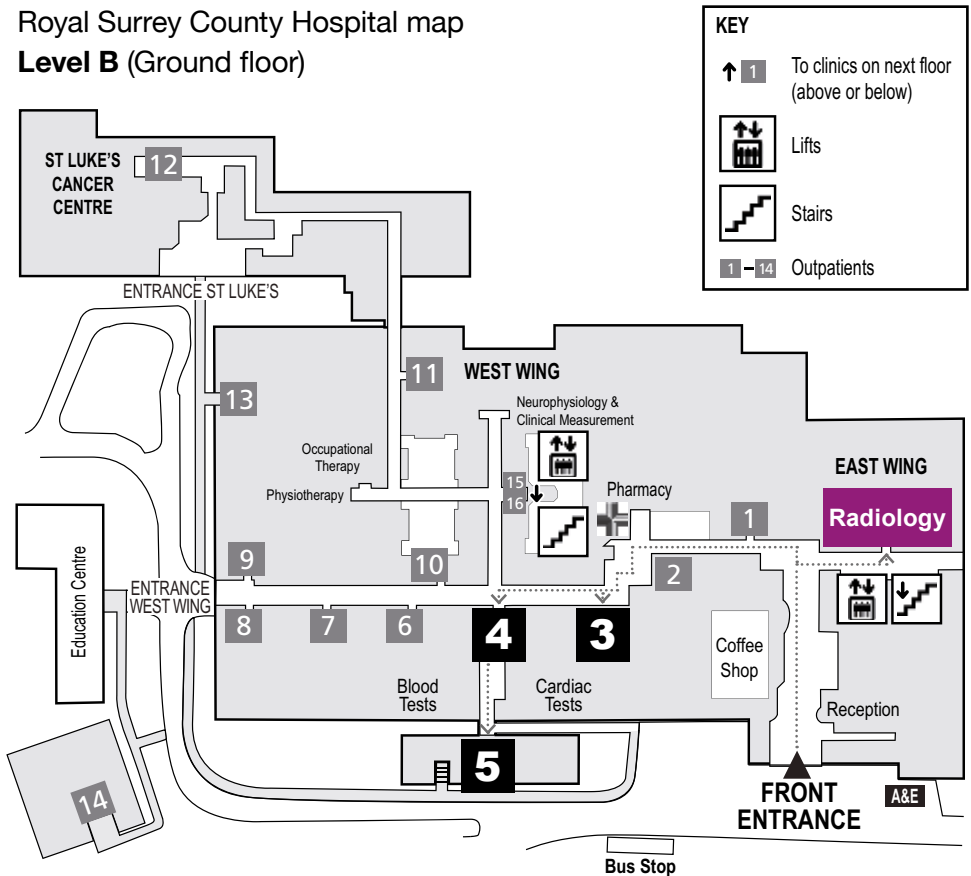
Useful websites

- **The Royal College of Radiologists**
www.rcr.ac.uk/
- **Nice Guidelines**
www.nice.org.uk
- **Information on radiation**
www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons
- **www.aboutconstipation.org/colonic-inertia.html**

How to find the Radiology Department

Royal Surrey County Hospital map

Level B (Ground floor)



Data sharing reference information is available on Royal Surrey County Hospital patient information leaflet entitled:

Your Healthcare records - your information **PIN120703-562**

Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Egerton Road

Guildford

Surrey

GU2 7XX

www.royalsurrey.nhs.uk

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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