

SETTING CT Scan Room, Hospital Radiology Department

PATIENT You are experiencing blurred vision and some pain and swelling in your eyes. You have been referred by your doctor for an emergency CT scan of your eyes to check for an infection.

- TASK**
- When asked, insist that you can still see, although your vision is blurred, and so you do not need a nurse to assist you.
 - Ask why you need to have dye injected into your hand.
 - Say that lying on the CT table sounds uncomfortable and you don't think you will be able to keep still for very long.
 - Admit that you are concerned about the amount of radiation you will be exposed to.
 - Say that you hope you will get the results soon so that you can find out what the problem is.
 - Agree to begin the scan process.

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RADIOGRAPHER The patient has been experiencing blurred vision, and pain and swelling in his/her eyes. The doctor has referred him/her for an emergency computed tomography scan (orbit CT scan) to check for orbital or preseptal cellulitis (infection of the eyes).

- TASK**
- Find out whether the patient requires a nurse to assist with the CT due to his/her decreased vision.
 - Explain the CT scan procedure (e.g., contrast dye injection in hand via cannula, lie on back, headfirst into scanner, images taken, 10-15 minutes, etc.).
 - Give reasons for use of contrast dye (e.g., see blood vessels more clearly, etc.).
 - Suggest ways to minimise discomfort during the scan (e.g., pillow, head holder, blanket, etc.). Stress the importance of not moving during the scans (prevent blurred images, etc.).
 - Give information about exposure to radiation (very low dose, low risk, etc.).
 - Outline results process (radiologist analyses images, report sent to GP, discussion with GP about diagnosis/treatment, etc.). Establish the patient's willingness to begin the scan process.