

CT Larynx

The larynx (voice box) is located in the anterior, or front portion, of the neck. It is a part of the respiratory tract, and has several important functions, including producing sound, coughing, and protection of the lower respiratory tract.

CT scanning has become the most commonly used technique for general laryngeal imaging, and is used to investigate:

- Hoarseness or voice changes,
- A sore throat that does not go away,
- Constant coughing,
- Pain and/or trouble when swallowing,
- The evaluation of occult fractures and dislocations during laryngeal trauma.

BEFORE THE SCAN:

Metal objects, including earrings & other facial piercings, glasses, dentures, hearing aids and hairpins, may affect the CT images and are removed (if possible) prior to the scan.

CT contrast (x-ray dye) may be used during the scan to highlight certain structures on the images. If contrast is required, you will be asked not to eat or drink anything for four hours before your scan.

The scan itself should only take a few minutes, but please allow yourself up to half an hour for the appointment.

DURING THE SCAN:

For a CT scan of the larynx, you will be asked to lie flat on your back, with your head in a head rest. It is important that you do not move during the scan. You will be asked not to swallow during the scan to prevent the images being blurred.

If contrast is required, a small needle (similar to a blood test) is placed in a vein in your arm, and the contrast will be injected during the scan. You may experience a feeling of warmth during the injection or a metallic taste in your mouth. **Please note that at this time, contrast studies are performed at our Ascot Hospital location, near the Ellerslie Racecourse.**