



Aftercare following Computed Tomography (CT) scanning

CT is a minimally invasive procedure to enable a visual inspection of a body area using X-rays (which are ionising radiation) to gain 3D information of the area examined.

Often the CT requires sending away to be reported. Depending upon the number of cases being processed this can take up to 2 weeks. If you have not heard from us within 2 weeks of your pets CT please contact us and we will chase the results.

The risks of CT are very small. Most patients require sedation of general anaesthetic and some patients require the use of iodine contrast agents (depending upon the area & disease process being investigated) and this does add small extra risks.

This contrast agent is injected into the blood system via an intravenous catheter. We use a low-osmolar, non-ionic contrast agent to reduce the risk to our patients.

Contrast Induced Nephrotoxicity (CIN) (kidney damage) is also a risk for patients with reduced renal (kidney) function that can lead to irreversible kidney failure. We reduce the risk of this by using intravenous fluid therapy, and unless your pet has had a blood test within the last 2 weeks we will perform one on the day of CT to check for kidney function to ensure that there is no reason to avoid the use of contrast. After the procedure, please observe for increased drinking and/or decreased urination. These could be signs of renal issues and if any significant changes are noticed seek veterinary advice.

There is a rare, but reported risk of an allergic reaction to the contrast agent causing anaphylaxis (shock). This would be during or immediately after the procedure whilst here at WMR.

All CTs require a general anaesthetic (rarely sedation only) and aftercare information specific to anaesthesia includes:

Endoscopy is performed under general anaesthetic (rarely sedation only). Issues relating to general anaesthetics include:

Coughing. This can be noted for a few days after a general anaesthetic because of the placement of a tube into the trachea ("windpipe") to administer oxygen and anaesthetic gas during the procedure. Coughing is typically intermittent, "dry" and only occasional. The coughing should get milder and less frequent as time goes on. If the reverse is true, seek advice.

Copious and frequent urination in the early post-anaesthetic period is likely because we administer intravenous fluids during anaesthesia. Please be ready for this. Give plenty of opportunity for urination, make a point of noting when urine is passed, and keep your pet clean and dry. If no urination has been noted by the following morning, please ring us for advice.

Patients may be less inclined than usual to drink in the hours after a general anaesthetic. This is because we use intravenous fluids routinely and the pets will be well hydrated. Water should still be provided though.

A pet will typically eat within a few hours of an anaesthetic. Their normal diet can usually be fed.

Faeces may not be passed for a day or two after a general anaesthetic. This is not generally a cause for concern, but if nothing has been passed by four days, please ring for advice.

After a general anaesthetic, or even a sedative, a patient may remain drowsy for a few hours, and be less able to manage their own temperature and comfort than usual. In summer keep them in the shade to avoid overheating which might result if they doze in the sunshine. In winter, make sure they stay tucked up in the warm. Avoid your pet getting wet if it is raining as this is likely to cause chilling. Use an umbrella when they are taken out to relive themselves!

Vomiting in the hours after an anaesthetic is not typical. It would most likely be due to the patient's underlying condition or to medications that have been given like non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. If vomiting or diarrhoea is noted, you should seek advice promptly.

Our fixed prices include any follow up consults done with us, but don't include further medication or repeat scans. For further details please see www.wm-referrals.com, "about us", "FAQs". Subsequent consults, procedures and drugs from your usual vet will be chargeable. For further advice please contact us on 07944 105501 or at enquiries@wm-referrals.com. Consider texting/emailing pictures.