

Computed Tomography (CT) Examination

Due to preparation requirements, please arrive for the examination **10 minutes before your scheduled time**. The examination lasts 10–20 minutes.

The examination is performed only on the basis of a referral; without a referral, the examination cannot be carried out.

Preparation for the examination

Before all the scan, remove all jewellery and other metal objects from the area being examined. If the area contains piercings you do not wish to remove, please replace them with plastic ones that have no metal parts. **No special preparation is needed for examinations of the head, neck, spine, or chest.**

For abdominal and/or pelvic examinations:

- Do not eat for 3–4 hours before the examination.
- You may drink water or juice.
- You may take your regular daily medications.
- The bladder should be moderately full.
- Wear light and comfortable clothing that can be easily removed if necessary.
- All metal jewellery and watches, as well as belts, hair clips, and glasses (if needed), must be removed before the scan. It is recommended to come to the examination without jewellery or other decorative accessories.

Depending on the diagnosis, a CT scan may require an intravenous injection of an iodine-containing contrast agent, which helps doctors assess body structures more clearly. Allergic reactions to the contrast agent are very rare.

X-ray radiation is harmful to the developing organism; **pregnant women (or those who suspect pregnancy)** must inform both the referring doctor and the CT staff of their (possible) pregnancy.

Examination

A computed tomography (CT) scanner is an X-ray device connected to a computer, enabling the creation of layered and three-dimensional images of the human body.

- It is important to lie still during the scan, as movement will reduce image quality. The table moves back and forth during the examination.
- You may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds.
- Throughout the examination, the staff will monitor you through a window and communicate with you via an intercom system.
- If necessary, a venous cannula will be placed in your arm for injection of an iodine-containing contrast agent to better visualise organ structures and possible pathological changes. During the injection, you may experience a brief sensation of warmth and a metallic taste in your mouth, which will pass within a few seconds.

After the examination

- After a contrast-enhanced examination, it is recommended to drink plenty of fluids (preferably water, about 1.5–2 litres) throughout the day to help flush the contrast agent from your body.
- The contrast agent does not affect reaction speed or attention.
- Delayed reactions to the contrast agent (drop in blood pressure, increased heart rate, breathing difficulties, anxiety or confusion, bluish discolouration of the lips) occur only in rare cases (< 1 : 1000). If this happens, you must seek medical attention immediately and inform the doctor about the administered contrast agent.

Examination results

You will receive the results of your examination from your treating physician. If you do not have a scheduled appointment or call time, please contact the referring department.

