

Computed tomography scan

Computed tomography (CT) is an X-ray machine connected to a computer that allows layered and three-dimensional images to be taken of the human body. The scan takes about 10-20 minutes.

Please note! An X-ray is dangerous to the developing organism and **pregnant women (or women with suspected pregnancies)** must inform their physician and the staff carrying out the scan of their (possible) pregnancy.

Before the examination

Due to the preparations needed for the investigation, **we ask you to arrive 10 minutes before the appointment time.**

Preparations are not needed for scans of the head, neck, vertebral column or thorax.

For abdominal and/or pelvic region scans:

- **Do not eat for 2-4 hours before the scan.**
- Drink only water or juice.
- You may take your daily medicinal products.
- Your bladder may be moderately full.
- Put on something light and comfortable that is easy to remove when needed.
- All metal jewellery and watches as well as trouser belts, hair clips and glasses, if necessary, must be removed during the scan. It is recommended to come to the scan without jewellery and other accessories.

If you are **hyposensitive or allergic to iodine or the iodinated contrast agent**, notify the physician who referred you for as well as the staff carrying out the scan.

During the scan

- Lie still, otherwise the quality of the images obtained during the scan will deteriorate. The table you are lying on moves back and forth during the scan.
- Sometimes you will be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds during the scan.
- The staff will monitor you through the window and the audio system throughout the scan.
- If necessary, a vein cannula is placed in your hand, through which an iodinated contrast agent is injected to make the structure of the organs more visible, including possible pathological changes. During the injection of the contrast agent, you may feel hot and have a metallic taste in your mouth that goes away in a few seconds.

After the scan

- After the contrast-enhanced scan, you should drink plenty of fluids (preferably 1.5 to 2 litres of water) on the same day to expel the contrast agent from your body more quickly.
- The contrast agent has no effect on your rate of reaction or attention.
- Delayed reactions to the contrast agent (decreased blood pressure, increased heart rate, difficulty breathing, anxiety and confusion, bluish lips) have been reported in isolated cases (<1: 1000). In this case, you should visit a physician immediately and talk about the contrast agent injected.

Scan results

You will find out the results of the investigation from your physician. If you do not have an appointment or a call booked, contact the department that referred you for the investigation.