

Patient information leaflet

What is computerized tomography (CT)?



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Dear Patient

Your doctor has referred you to us to have a CT scan (computerized tomography). This leaflet is designed to give you some important information about the procedure.

What is CT?

CT is an imaging procedure during which a designated region of your body is made visible - slice by slice. These cross-sectional images are taken of the part of your anatomy in question. X-rays are used for this purpose. This facilitates visualization of individual organs and their relationship to one another, along with any pathological clusters. These findings are relevant for any further treatment.

How is a CT scan carried out?

The length of the examination depends on the part of your anatomy to be examined and the question(s) your attending physician wants to answer. In most cases, the entire procedure (including preparations) takes less than 30 minutes. The actual CT examination takes only a few seconds.

For the examination, you will be placed on a special scanner table which will then slowly move you into the CT unit.

What do I have to be aware of during the CT scan?

It is important you lie perfectly still while the images are being generated and follow all breathing commands exactly. Throughout the entire procedure, you will be under the supervision of the healthcare staff; communication with them will always be possible, even through the closed door to the examining room. In just about every case, even patients with claustrophobia can be examined without problem in the CT scanner!

Why is a contrast agent needed?

Depending on the question your doctor wants to answer, a CT examination may require contrast media. There is a variety of contrast agents that can be used alone or in combination: A contrast agent can be administered as a drink or a rectal suppository (improves visualization of the stomach and intestine) or by injection into an arm vein (to visualize the vessels and for improved contrast in the organs/soft tissue).

What side effects and complications can occur?

As with any injection, administration of contrast agents into an arm vein can cause pain or bruising at the injection site. Infections are very rare. If, during the injection of a contrast agent, you should notice swelling of your arm at the injection site, you must let us know immediately: Rarely, the contrast agent might flow next to the vein and into the soft tissue of the arm. This can cause painful swelling that might persist for days and may sometimes require treatment.

Normal reactions to contrast agent injections are a warm feeling in the abdomen and a slightly bitter, metallic taste in the mouth.

In isolated cases, contrast agent administration can also cause sneezing, skin rash or nausea. These side effects are short-lived and might potentially require treatment with medication that the radiologist will prescribe. Serious side effects like shortness of breath and cardio-vascular difficulties or seizures occurring in connection with modern-day contrast agents are extremely rare.

Weighed against the benefits, the risks of a CT examination are very low and are scrutinized before every procedure. If side effects occur nevertheless, medical assistance is available instantly.

All CT procedures are associated with radiation exposure. We take all measures possible to minimize your exposure.

Prior to each CT examination, a questionnaire will be handed out to you. Please read through it carefully, fill it out and turn it back in to us.

If you have any more questions, please ask that they are answered by the doctor examining you. They are happy to be at your service!

Patient questionnaire

Computerized tomography (CT)



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Dear Patient,

Your doctor has referred you to us to have a CT scan (computerized tomography). We ask you to please read our CT Patient Information Leaflet, answer the questions below to the best of your knowledge and at the end sign the questionnaire.

If you have any more questions, please ask that they are answered by the doctor examining you. They are happy to be at your service!

Name:

First name:

Date of birth:

A

General questions

Weight:

kg

For women: Are you or might you be pregnant?

Yes

No

B

Questions relating to the intravenous administration of a contrast agent

Please mark whether you have suffered or are suffering from any of the following diseases

Yes

No

Thyroid disorder?

Allergies? (Please present your allergy passport, if you have one)

Have you ever been hospitalized because you had severe allergic reactions?

Disease of the respiratory tract (asthma, shortness of breath, emphysema)?

Kidney disease/renal impairment or kidney surgery in the past?

High blood pressure (hypertension)?

Diabetes?

Do you regularly take blood thinners or medicines for diabetes?
If yes, which ones?

Have you ever had a contrast agent injected into your vein?

If yes: Did you tolerate the contrast agent well?

To be filled out by the healthcare staff:

Creatinine:

µmol/l

Clearance (eGFR):

ml/min

I have understood the information given, have answered all questions conscientiously and hereby consent to having the CT performed.

Date:

Signature:

Rad. tech. initials:

