

# Computed Tomography Scan



## Patient Information

### What is computed tomography?

Computer Tomography (CT) is an xray examination that takes computer-generated images of the internal workings of the body. It allows the building up of a picture of the anatomy under review, showing both soft tissue and bone, and it quite useful for imaging parts of the body that are difficult to access. The procedure may require intravenous injection of contrast medium into a vein, usually at the elbow or the back of the hand.

The equipment that takes the image is large, and usually in the shape of a circle or square, with an opening or gantry in the middle (a little like a donut), which allows the patient table to pass through. During this process the machinery takes a number of image slices which, when combined in a total picture, is very detailed.

### What preparation is required?

The preparation required will vary depending on the region being scanned. Details are as follows:

#### CT, Angiography, Neck or Chest

- Do not eat for 4 hours before the appointment. You are allowed to drink water to stay well hydrated.

#### Abdomen and Pelvis

- Do not eat for 4 hours before the appointment. Drink 1 litre of water 1½ hours before the appointment. A full bladder is not necessary.

#### Head, Sinuses, Spine or Extremities

- No preparation is necessary.

### What documentation is required?

Bring your referral and any relevant previous xrays for comparison.

Also bring your Medicare card, Pension or Healthcare Card or Veteran's Affairs card details if applicable.

### What you need to tell us prior to your appointment?

At the time of arranging your appointment, please advise us if you are pregnant.

If you have had an adverse reaction to a previous contrast injection or if you have any renal impairment. We will ask you to complete a questionnaire before the examination and sign a consent to the contrast injection if it is required for your examination.

If you are taking Metformin, and receive an intravenous injection of contrast medium, you will be given special instructions to follow afterwards.

### What will happen during the examination?

After preparation for your particular examination (if applicable) and your consent if a contrast injection is to be administered, you will probably need to change into a gown and then lie on the table which passes through the gantry or opening in the scanner a number of times.

### How long will the examination take?

After the preparation, the scan itself can take between 10 to 40 minutes to complete, depending on the images required.

### What can you expect after your examination?

There should be no ill effects after the examination. If you have had a contrast injection a high fluid intake for 24 hours is recommended to flush out the contrast. Drink plenty of water and stay well hydrated.

### Are there any risks?

You will receive a small dose of x-ray radiation. The benefits of detecting disease are believed to outweigh any potential risks from receiving such a small dose.

Please, however, advise the radiographer if you are, or think you may be, pregnant.

### What happens with the images and reports?

As CT examinations often involve a complex array of images processing and reporting may take some time. Thus it is recommended that you discuss collection of the images with the reception staff.

A report will be provided directly to your referring doctor.

We will store digital copies of all studies and reports on our secure patient information system for comparison with any future examinations.



Chatswood Radiology  
Clarence Valley Imaging  
North Coast Radiology  
Ryde Radiology

### Your appointment details

Date

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Time

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Location

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