

CT scan of the head and brain

Why the scan is being done

With the help of the scan, diseases and changes can be detected in the head area, i.e., in the brain and skull.

Getting ready for the scan

You may eat and drink as normal.

If you have not received other instructions from the unit where you are treated, you may take your regular medications as normal.

Remove jewellery and piercings from the head area before the scan.

Inform the radiographer before the scan if you are hypersensitive to contrast medium that contains iodine.

Before the scan, tell the radiographer if you are pregnant or suspect pregnancy.

How the scan is done

The CT scanner is used to obtain cross-sectional images of the head area using X-rays.

The scan is painless.

During the scan, it is important to lie absolutely still. You will lie on your back on the examination table.

The table will move during the scan.

The radiographer will be able to see you, hear you, and talk to you at all times during the scan.

You may be given a contrast medium that contains iodine into a vein to improve visibility of your blood vessels and tissues. The contrast medium will cause a temporary sensation of warmth and you may have a metallic taste in your mouth.

The contrast medium will be eliminated from your body through urine.

The scan takes about 15 minutes.

However, you should reserve slightly more time for your appointment.

After the scan

Drink plenty of fluids after the scan.

Drinking helps to eliminate the contrast medium from your body.

If you have a sensor that measures glucose in interstitial fluid, replace the sensor.

Where do you get the scan results

You will get the results from the referring outpatient clinic or ward.

Other considerations

There is no separate fee for the scan; it is included in the outpatient clinic fee.

If you are unable to attend your scheduled appointment, please let us know as soon as possible.

A penalty fee will be charged for a missed appointment not cancelled in advance.

Contact information

If you have any questions about the scan, please contact the imaging unit you are scheduled to attend.

Pori Satasairaala and Rauma

You can call our joint service number:

044 707 9202.

Phone hours:

Monday to Friday,

8 am–2.30 pm