

TT Computed tomography of the small intestine

The computed tomography (CT) scanner performs cross-sectional or 'slice' imaging, in which the image is formed with the help of X-rays. For this reason, the study is not suitable for pregnant women.

How to prepare for the procedure?

- The day before the procedure you can eat and drink normally.
- On the day of the procedure you must fast from food and drink for four hours before the scan.

If your doctor thinks it is necessary to check your kidney function before the procedure, the doctor will order a blood test. Metformin-medication does not need to be stopped before the procedure.

If you are, or think you may be, pregnant or if you are allergic to X-ray contrast agent, please tell this to the referring doctor and please contact the X-ray department before the day of the examination.

If you have previously had a mild reaction to iodine contrast agent, a contrast examination can often be done with pre-administered cortisone medication.

If you have previously had a severe contrast reaction, then the study will be performed without contrast.

One hour before the scan you will receive some contrast agent to drink.

How is the procedure done?

The procedure begins with an hour long drinking of Mannitol solution (1200 milliliters), after which the small intestine area is imaged with a computed tomography (CT) scanner. During the procedure it is important for you to keep absolutely still. The Radiographer will also give you breathing instructions. The CT table moves during the scan and the Radiographer will be able to see and hear you throughout the scan.

The procedure uses a medicine that relaxes the bowel and it is given to you intravenously. The Computed Tomography examination also uses an intravenous contrast agent, which is usually injected into a vein in the arm. Both the oral and injected contrast agents make it easier to interpret your images.

In general, contrast agents do not have side effects. However, if you notice anything unusual about your health after the examination, please contact the examination department or on-call doctor. The procedure takes about two hours.

What about after the procedure?

The procedure does not require follow-up at the hospital. After the scan, when the bowel relaxant medication has worn off, we highly recommend that you stay close to a toilet.

The referring unit is responsible for reporting the results of the procedure.