

COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY

What is computed tomography?

A computed tomography (CT) investigation is a radiological imaging technique that uses ionising radiation, which allows the formation of layered and spatial images of the human body. The amount of radiation used for the investigation is higher than that of an ordinary X-ray; therefore, the investigation is performed only for certain indications and not for prophylaxis.

Preparation for the investigation

- We ask that you arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the investigation.
- The investigation will be conducted **only** on the basis of a referral. Before the CT scan, you are asked to remove your outerwear and metal objects from the investigation area. We recommend coming to the investigation without jewellery and with clothes that are easy to remove and do not contain any metal details.
- Before investigation of the abdominal or pelvic region, we ask that you not eat for 2 to 4 hours prior.
- You can continue to take your everyday medications as directed by your treating physician.

Investigation procedure

During the investigation, you will lie on an investigation table that moves back and forth partially in the tunnel-like investigation apparatus. Depending on the investigation type, you may have to hold your breath a few times during the investigation. It is important to lie still, otherwise the investigation may fail.

If your investigation requires the injection of a contrast agent, the radiology technician will insert a venous cannula before the investigation, through which the iodine-based contrast agent is injected. A contrast agent is necessary for visualising organ structure and possible pathological changes. A contrast agent containing iodine can cause hypersensitivity reactions. The most common reactions include a feeling of warmth, a metallic taste in mouth. Some patients experience nausea occasionally. These symptoms pass within a few minutes.

If you have a history of reactions to a contrast agent, certainly inform the radiology technician.

The investigation lasts for 10 to 20 minutes depending on the medical problem.

After the investigation

After the contrast agent has been injected, it is recommended to drink 1.5 to 2 litres of alcohol-free liquid on the same day to excrete the contrast agent from the body more quickly.

Contraindications

Pregnancy

Contraindications for contrast enhanced investigation

- Prior reaction to contrast agent
- Renal failure
- Abnormal renal function values

Availability of investigation results

The results of the investigation will be sent to your treating physician. If you cannot come to the investigation appointment at the agreed time, please notify us in advance.