

COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT) SCAN

Dear Sir/Madam

CT Scan is a modern method using the effects of X-ray (RTG) radiation which represents a certain burden for the human body and its use should be seriously considered. For a high-quality examination of blood-vessels and organs, the intravenous administration of an iodine contrasting substance is necessary, which is subject to the decision of the doctor directly in the CT department.

However, the diagnostic CT Scan will contribute significantly to the clarification or check of your health condition, which can influence the following course of your treatment.

Pre-Examination Preparation

Come to the examination with an empty stomach (at least 4 hours before the examination only little liquid, no coffee or alcohol). If an examination targeted at the digestive system is to be performed (the small and large intestine), a more thorough preparation is necessary (intestinal evacuation) according to the instructions of the attending physician who has ordered the examination. Further necessary preparation will be carried out on the day of the examination according to the instructions of the examining physician (radiologist).

In case you are allergic to any substances (including the allergy to pollen or insect bite), please inform your attending physician as well as the staff of the CT department **about it in advance**. It is very important to tell your attending physician as well as the personnel of the CT department whether you have ever had an allergic reaction to the intravenous administration of an iodine contrasting substance, not only for a CT Scan but also for the examination of blood-vessels (angiography and flebography) or of the kidneys (secretive urography). Please inform them also about a possible skin reaction to disinfectants containing iodine. In addition, tell the personnel of the CT department if you suffer from any kidney function disorder, bronchial asthma or glaucoma.

On the basis of the information provided by you and your attending physician, the radiologist will consider the necessity of the intravenous administration of the contrasting substance, or he will recommend a preventive drug administration to eliminate potential complications connected with the intravenous administration of the contrasting substance on the basis of the recommendation in the Methodical List of Intravascular Administration of Iodine Contrasting Substances approved by the committee of RS ČLS JEP (Radiological Society of the Czech Medical Association of Jana Evangelista Purkyně).

Examination Procedure

The examination can be performed without the necessity of administering the contrasting substance, and no preparation or provision of intravenous access is necessary.

In case the contrasting substance has to be administered, the intravenous access will be provided to you into your arm generally (a similar injection as for blood taking).

The examination is carried out while you are lying and you must follow the instructions of the health care personnel precisely (e.g. holding your breath for a moment).

During and immediately after the intravenous administration, you may experience the accompanying phenomena of the contrasting substance, especially the feeling of "heat all over the body", you may in exceptional cases feel sick or strong heart beat. These feelings will fade away after a while.

CT Scan Risks and Possible Complications

Possible serious complications include allergic reactions which can occur even if you have never experienced them and you have already been examined by means of the iodine contrasting substance. More serious complications from the administration of modern, "non-ionising" contrasting substances occur only in exceptional cases. The diagnosis as well as the method of treating those complications depends on the seriousness of the allergic reaction, and the personnel of the CT department are prepared for that.

Post-Examination Procedure, Possible Limitations

Regarding the fact that health complications may in exceptional cases last for a longer period after the examination, it is recommended to come to the examination with an accompanying person, and to wait for at least 15 minutes in the waiting room of the CT department.

