



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY

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INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS HAVING A CT SCAN

Dear patient, welcome to our Institute!



You will be subject to a CT (computed tomography) scan upon request of your attending physician. It is a state-of-the-art method of diagnostic imaging providing useful information on the scanned region. We would like to inform you about the course and criteria of the study to ensure mutual cooperation.

Please read this leaflet carefully.

What does a CT (Computed Tomography) scan mean?



A computed tomography (CT) scan is a special type of X-ray examination used to create cross-sectional images of the body. The scanner consists of a 'doughnut'-shaped structure, or gantry, about two feet thick, through which you pass on a table.

A narrow fan-shaped beam of x-rays is produced from inside the gantry, and rotates in a complete circle around you. The x-rays pass through your body and are detected by electronic sensors on the other side of the gantry. The information passes to a computer, which then produces a picture of the internal structure of the body. The pictures are displayed on a computer

monitor and can be examined by the radiologist. A scan takes between 2 and 20 minutes depending on what area of the body is being scanned.

What are the contraindications of the CT scan?

- If you are **pregnant or suspect pregnancy**, please, **notify us of this information** at the admission desk prior to the procedure, because the examination involves the use of X-rays.
- The maximum weight capacity for our CT scanner table is **150 kg**, so the procedure can be performed only on patients **not** exceeding the **weight limit**.

I required to make any special preparations?

You may speed up the process by preparing for the scan in advance. You **do not** have to get undressed for the examination, but **the scanned parts of your body should be devoid of metal objects**, zippers, buckles, belts, buttons, and jewelry. Please, empty your pockets. Take your watch off, removable dentures and hearing aid should be removed. Loosen your tie and belt. Expose your arm to the intravenous injection. you can leave your belongings in the undressing cubicle.

You should drink 6-10 dl of liquid iodine before performing an abdominal CT scan to visualize the gastrointestinal tract. You are expected to wait 1-2 hours afterwards. **If you are aware of iodine sensitivity or hyperthyroidism, please, let us know in advance.** You may experience temporary diarrhea due to the liquid. In this case you should take activated charcoal for a couple of days or the medicine prescribed by a doctor.

To perform a contrast series, you will need a **laboratory test** not less than 1 month prior today containing levels of creatinine and carbamide to check your kidney function.

How the CT scan is done?

A CT scan is virtually the equivalent of an X-ray test: you will lie in comfort during the examination. It is important to maintain the position adjusted by our assistant. Thank you!

The CT image is usually acquired during a breathing pause after normal inhalation. You will hear instructions about the timing of respiration.

The study lasts approximately 5-20 minutes. It is possible that in spite of your scheduled appointment you will have to wait, because **emergency patients with a severe condition are given priority over other**. Thank you for your patience on behalf of other patients!

You will be called by our assistant, who will maintain direct contact with you asking several questions. **Please**, confide in the assistant. After giving your consent, please, give him/her your medical records, X-ray films, CD-s and much information as possible. Your permission is required to copy your findings and discharge summaries.

The vast majority of the patients receive intravenous contrast material during the scan, as some lesions can be accurately assessed using this method. **Please tell us, if you are allergic to X-ray contrast agents** (you experienced sickness during previous CT scans, pyelograms, cholangiograms or angiograms), medications or any substance, or you are aware of food intolerance.



If **you are diabetic** and you are taking the following medications- **Adimet, Maformin, Merckformin, Meforae, Metfogamma, Metroin-** you cannot receive intravenous iodinated contrast material! Therefore, you cannot take these drugs two days before and after the scan and on the day of examination, i.e. the therapy should be discontinued for 5 days.

Can side effects appear during my CT scan?

Thanks to the latest state-of-the-art technology, the scan results minimal radiation exposure.

Side effects are very rare with the administration of contrast material, which are usually mild and well managed. Our staff is trained and equipped to deal with such side effects.

After the injection, you may find redness and blueness at the injection site. This is just temporary and goes away within a few days applying compression therapy. Warm swelling and pain occurring at the injection site implies vasculitis. In this case, please, come back to us or contact your physician.

Contrast injection may cause temporary feeling of warmth, occasionally hives, itching or redness may occur. You can experience nausea if you have eaten prior to the examination. In more severe cases- very rarely- sweating, fainting, and larynx swelling can occur- these symptoms are alleviated by administering intravenous injection and infusion. **Please, tell us immediately if you have any complaints during the administration of the contrast material, during or after the scan throughout the mandatory waiting period.**

What happens with me after the CT scan?

You are expected to wait 20 minutes in the waiting room following the scan. Please, do not leave the building.

After the scan, you will be informed about when and how will you or your doctor receive the findings, **Please, always bring your previous CT reports and images (CD) for follow-up examinations.**



Any further questions?

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our staff. Thank you for your cooperation facilitating our work and thereby your recovery.

Budapest, March 2020

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