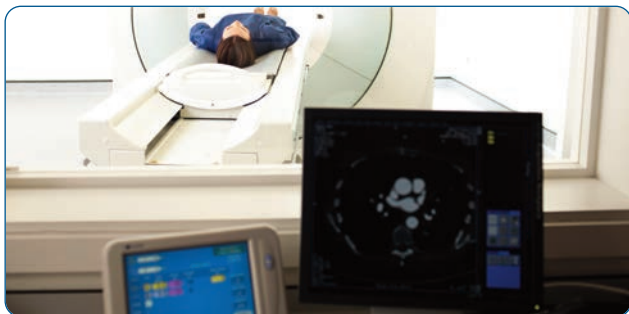


What happens during the scan?

You will be asked to lie on a table, which will be raised up and moved into a doughnut-shaped gantry. Straps and pillows may be used to help maintain your correct position for the scan. The radiographer leaves the room during the scan but can see you at all times. They will communicate with you by means of an intercom. You may be asked to hold your breath at certain stages during the scan.

The scan takes approximately 10 - 20 minutes but may be longer for certain examinations. The overall examination time, however, will vary depending on whether you require contrast or not.



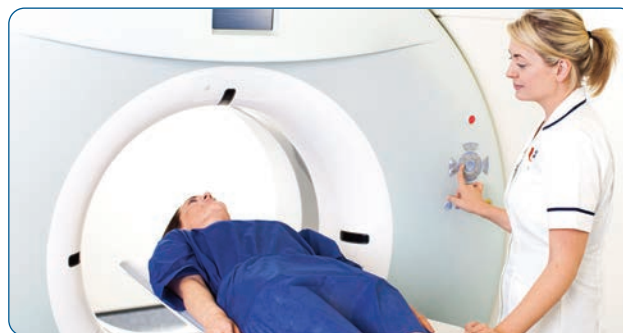
What happens after the scan?

You will be removed from the scanner and allowed to dress and retrieve your items.

When will I get my results?

After the scan the images will be reviewed by a Radiologist who will report on the findings of the scan. This report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will then discuss the findings with you and decide on treatment required, if any.

For ethical and professional reasons we cannot discuss results directly with you. Only your doctor or Consultant can do this.



Alliance Medical Diagnostic Imaging

Alliance Medical is a specialist provider of Diagnostic Imaging services to the public and private sectors throughout Ireland. We believe in providing our patients with easily accessible, high quality clinical care, using appropriate technology, in a timely manner within a caring environment.

Additionally we want to assist our referring physicians with a locally delivered, high quality, professional and efficient diagnostic service which addresses their patients' diagnostic needs with regard to accessibility and quality of care.

Locations

Alliance Medical are located throughout Ireland. To make an appointment at one of our Diagnostic Imaging Centres please log onto our website www.alliancemedical.ie to find your nearest Alliance Medical facility.



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Computer Tomography (CT)



Your Partner in Diagnostic Imaging

www.alliancemedical.ie

What is CT?

Computed Tomography (CT) is cross-sectional imaging method using a beam of x-rays that rotate around you as you lie on the scanner to produce detailed pictures of the body to help doctors diagnose and treat medical conditions.

What is CT used for?

The CT images are very detailed and show bone, organs and other tissues in the body very clearly. CT can be used to investigate a wide range of diseases.

Are there any risks?

CT scanning involves x-rays. Female patients who are or might be pregnant must inform a member of staff in advance. The amount of radiation used is more than an ordinary x-ray of the chest or body. Typically a CT examination of your Abdomen and Pelvis is the equivalent of 3 years of background radiation.

Despite these slight risks, your doctor believes it is advisable that you should have this examination.



How should I prepare for my CT examination?

Unless you are told otherwise, no special preparation is required for your scan. It may be helpful if you could come for your scan in clothing with no metal parts such as hooks, buckles or zips. If this is not possible you may be asked to change into a hospital gown. We would also request that you leave any valuable possessions at home. You may be required to complete a questionnaire before your CT examination, particularly if you are receiving an injection.

Please let us know if you have any disabilities or special requirements when making your appointment so that we can ensure we are able to offer you the highest quality service.

Do I need to fast for CT?

Depending on the type of CT examination you need to have you may be asked to fast. Staff will advise you of all preparations necessary when scheduling your appointment.

Will I need to receive contrast or dye for the CT?

Some CT examinations require you to drink or have an injection of a contrast agent or dye. If you are required to drink contrast for your scan you will have to attend 1 to 2 hours before your examination time. If oral contrast is required you will be asked to drink approximately 1 litre of the dye. You should inform the radiographer if you suffer from any allergies, asthma, hay fever, or if you have any problems with your heart, liver or kidneys.

Are there any side effects?

No. There are no restrictions on normal activity - you can eat and drink normally, drive and return to work immediately after the scan.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes someone may accompany you on the day of your scan. However this person will not be permitted to stay with you during the scan. Due to space constraints in the waiting room, your companion may be asked to wait outside the CT unit.

What happens when I arrive?

On the day of your scan you should arrive 15 minutes before your appointment time. Please note that your appointment time might be one or two hours before your examination time depending on whether you require oral contrast or not. You will check in at reception and you will be asked by the reception staff to complete some forms. These forms might include a safety questionnaire or a claim form to process payment from your health insurance company. Please bring along your health insurance membership card if applicable.

Prior to your examination, you might be asked to change into a hospital gown. You will be required to remove metal items from your person so that they do not show up on the scan. The radiographer should be informed if you have any allergies. It is important to inform the radiographer if you are pregnant or if there is a possibility that you might be pregnant.

The examination will be explained to you and you will be given the opportunity to ask any questions.