

Fact Sheet

CT SCAN

What is a CT scan?

A CT scan is a painless test that uses X-rays and a special machine to take pictures of the inside of your body.

What is involved?

Before the test, tell your **doctor** and the **imaging staff** if you have **allergies**, are **pregnant** or think you **might be pregnant**.

For the scan, please remain as still as possible.

You may need to have an x-ray dye (contrast) injected into your arm to highlight the area being studied. Or you may need to drink contrast to highlight the bowel.

What happens after the test?

A radiologist (a specialist doctor) assesses the images and sends the results to your referring doctor.

Are there any risks?

The CT uses x-ray radiation to take the pictures of your body. Exposure to x-ray radiation slightly increases the risk of developing cancer later in life.

The increased risk is small. Your doctor considers this risk is less than the risk from not identifying or treating your disease or condition properly.

Risks of CT Contrast

If you are having CT contrast, there is a small risk of infection at the site of injection.

There is a small risk the injection may leak outside of the vessel, under the skin and this may be painful and require treatment.

There is a very small risk of an allergic reaction. Minor reactions occur in up to 1 in 100 people. Moderate reactions occur in less than 1 in 1000 people. These often need drug treatment and symptoms include prolonged vomiting, a generalised rash, or swelling of the face, mouth or throat, making it harder to breathe or swallow. Severe reactions including death occur in fewer than 1 in 100,000 people, these require emergency medical treatment.

For people with kidney problems (renal impairment), CT contrast can temporarily and sometimes permanently cause further damage. The smallest possible dose of contrast is given, and your kidney function will be tested before the scan if you are at risk.

For more information visit: www.insideradiology.com.au