

MSCT INFORMATIONS FOR CT SCAN DIAGNOSTIC EXAMINATIONS

1. What happens during CT scan examination

CT scan examination is one of the most modern methods that diagnostics know so far. It is performed on the 128-slice Philips CT Scanner. The doctor gives indication for this diagnostic method and also gives recommendation which part of the body should be examined. Possible changes in the body CT detects using X-rays, the signal is received through a computer and registered in the form of an image of the intersection of a particular part of the body.

Multislice CT scanner detects and locates changes in the early stages. It can separate blood vessels from the other structures, tissues and organs, giving a clear picture of what needs to be diagnosed. It gives very detailed representations of soft tissues, blood vessels and bones.

The examination takes place in a special CT room where patient lies on a table that is pulled into the ring of the CT machine. During the examination, you will be placed in the appropriate position and the machine will move the table on which you are lying in a CT scan or pull it out of the machine. The examination is short and painless, takes about 10min and you can spend up to 30min in the hall, depending on the region being recorded, from the imaging technique or the administration of the intravenous contrast.

Sometimes, for the better visualization of the certain organs, it is necessary to apply a contrast agent, in which case the nurse will place i.v. cannula before the examination. When giving a contrast agent it is common to feel the presence of a strange taste in the mouth, the spread of heat in the stomach or the urge to urinate. It is an expected reaction of your organism that is short termed, harmless and transient. It is important not to be afraid and to stay calm during the examination. Contrast is excreted through the kidneys. After the examination, the nurse will remove the cannule and it is customary to stay in the clinic for at least 30min after examination is finished, for your own safety.

2. Possible complications

There are several possible complications associated with performing this examination, which are rare but can be expected.

- **Radiation:** CT scan diagnostic must be indicated exclusively by a physician who assesses well-being for the patient in terms of confirming or excluding the referral diagnosis, in relation to the negative impact of ionizing X rays on the body. Frequent and repeated examinations can adversely affect health.
- **Allergic reaction to the contrast agent:** This is a very rare complication which is usually manifested by a skin rash and most often passes spontaneously. The appearance of swelling, fever and nausea are possible. Patients suffering from asthma may have symptoms of coughing and suffocation – shortness of breath. The application of contrast can also lead to impaired renal function, disruption of the work of the thyroid gland.
- **Placement of the venous cannule:** the site of placement can be a little swelled, painful. It can also bleed a little, or be bruised after.
Very rarely it can happen that the contrast agent is poured into the tissue next to the vein. In this case, the application will be suspended.

If you experience pain during contrast application, you notice swelling or bruising, any type of reaction of the body that is not common (allergy, cough, difficulty swallowing and breathing) please inform the staff **immediately**, and they will discontinue the examination, apply the necessary therapy and take all other necessary measures.

During the examination you can talk with doctor or medical staff.

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Mi slušamo
Vaše srce.

3. How to prepare for CT scan examinations:

- If your appointment is scheduled in the morning, do not eat breakfast on the day of the examination.
- If your appointment is scheduled in the afternoon, **do not eat at least 2h before the scheduled examination.**
- For examinations of the abdomen, in order to prepare, it is necessary to drink 1L of water/liquid 1h before the examination, for better visualization of the organs, and for the examination of the small pelvis up to 1,5L of water before the examination.
- If you have a tendency to allergies or suffer from allergic diseases, contact your doctor to prepare for the examination, in order to avoid allergic reactions. **The preparation consists of taking antihistamines (allergy drugs) per os, three to seven days before the examination and on the day of examination.**
- If you have kidney diseases and values of creatinine are over 150µmol/l and can't be lowered, it is necessary to have the consent of the nephrologist to perform this examination.
- If you are taking a medication **GLUFORMIN (Glucophage, Metformin, Tefor, Siofor, Aglurab, Meglucon)**, you need to stop taking it 2 days before the examination, on the day of the examination and 2 days after the examination.
- If you are claustrophobic please inform us before the examination.
- If you have any concerns or questions about this examination, please contact our radiologist who performs the examination for additional information and to take precautions.