



CT scan

CT scans are used to examine all parts of the body. For example, the following conditions show up on a CT scan: complicated bone fractures, changes in bones and joints, haemorrhaging and tumours, diseases of the internal organs, inflammation and kidney stones

What is a CT scan?

CT is an abbreviation for Computed Tomography. A tomography produces a cross-sectional image of the body. CT is a very advanced form of X-ray technology which provides more detailed cross-sectional images of body tissue and organs.

When a contrast agent is used, the physician can use CT scan images to assess the flow of blood through various internal organs (i.e. distinguish between diseased and healthy tissue). The X-ray data recorded during the scan is picked up by detectors and processed by an advanced computer, which converts the data into images on a computer screen.

Aleris offers CT scanning of the following:

- Brain
- Heart
- Sinuses
- Lungs/ribcage
- Abdomen/belly

- Spine/neck
- Pelvis
- Bones
- Kidneys and urinary tract (CT urography)

Is a CT scan hazardous?

During a CT scan you receive about 10 mSv of radiation. By way of comparison, the natural radiation dose per year (from radon, the Earth's crust, food and cosmic radiation) is 3.0 mSv.

You can read more about X-rays and radiation on our website.

Referral

To get a CT scan, which uses X-ray radiation, you have to be referred by your GP or a specialist physician. It is regulated by law in Denmark that a doctor must be in charge of referral to examinations involving radiation.

If you are pregnant, you and your doctor will decide whether the examination can wait.

An Aleris physician can refer you directly if, during a preliminary examination, he or she assesses that a CT scan is necessary.

Preparation

Food and drink

You may eat and drink normally before the examination.

CT scan of stomach and urinary tract

If your stomach or urinary tract are to be scanned, you must drink 1 litre of water one hour before the examination. You may pass urine.

CT scan of the heart.

You cannot take kaffe, te, coke og tobacco on the day of the scanning. You will receive by mail prior to the examination with further information.

The examination

How long does it take?

The examination takes 15 minutes - 1 hour depending on whether you are given a contrast agent. You can leave the hospital as soon as the examination is over.

How is the examination performed?

When you arrive at Aleris, you will be welcomed by the radiographer who will perform the CT scan. The radiographer will explain about the CT scan.

You will most often be scanned in your own clothing. However, for some examinations, we will give you a hospital vest to wear. The radiographer will ensure that you are comfortable on the examination bed.

The CT scanner comprises a bed, which travels through a ring that is open at both ends.

It is important that you relax and lie very still throughout the examination.

During the CT scan, the bed moves slowly forwards and back while the machine takes pictures. During the examination, you are in contact with the radiographer.

At some CT examinations, contrast agent has to be injected into a blood vessel (e.g. in the elbow region) to create a better image.

Is it painful?

CT scanning is painless.

After the examination

The examination causes no discomfort and you can go home immediately after the examination – unless you have had an injection of contrast, you will have to stay in the hospital for 20 minutes. We have to make sure that there is no adverse reaction to the contrast agent.

When the images have been seen by our radiologist (specialist physician), they are sent to the physician who referred you. It takes up to 5 days for the results of a regular scan to reach the physician or practitioner who made the referral.

Potential side-effects and complications

Effects of radiation

The radiation the body is exposed to during a CT scan has slightly more effect than an ordinary X-ray examination. A scan is not recommended unless there are sound medical reasons to take one.

Contrast agent

In connection with this examination, in isolated cases, there may be an allergic reaction to the contrast agent, i.e. itching or, in very rare cases, breathing difficulties.

We avoid using a contrast agent if you have impaired kidney function.

If, in connection with a previous X-ray examination or scan with contrast agent in your blood vessels, you had a reaction of some kind, it is important that you inform us of the fact.

Patient satisfaction

To ensure that Aleris continues to provide the best care, treatment and service, please complete our patient satisfaction questionnaire, which you will receive in the mail (if you have given us permission to send one). Comments and criticism, whether positive or negative, are important to us as they ensure that we can continue to offer the best possible treatments for our patients.

There are stands in every unit, where we ask if you would recommend Aleris to others. To respond, touch the smiley you think is most appropriate.

Any complaints about your progress at Aleris we ask that you please forward directly to Our Chief Medical officer.

If you do not wish to complain to us directly, you have access to lodge a complaint via Patientombudet's (the National Agency for Patients' Rights and Complaints') website: www.patientombudet.dk. The web site provides guidance and a complaints form (in Danish).

If you believe that a medical error has been made and you wish to claim compensation, you should contact

Patientforsikringen (the Patient Insurance Association).

Visit www.patientforsikringen.dk.
The website provides guidance and a complaint form (in Danish and English).

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