

Important Information

Computer tomography (abbreviation CT) is a modern imaging method, enabling a detailed look into the human body. An X-ray tube circles around the patient at a definite distance while simultaneously emitting a thin bundle of X-rays. Opposite the tubes there are one or more detector series, depending on whether the instrument is a single-line CT instrument or a multiple-line CT instrument. This allows images to be taken of organs of the body in every layer and from almost one thousand directions.

During the examination, patients usually lie on their back, less commonly on their stomach, on a narrow bed which slowly moves into the ring-shaped opening (gantry) of the instrument. The gantry is relatively wide at around 70 cm diameter.

If you suffer from claustrophobia in enclosed spaces, please tell us before the examination. In this case, we can give you a sedative. During the examination, you can talk to the doctor or assistant via an intercom system at any time, if you experience problems.

Preparation for the examination

Examinations of the head (skull and brain) as well as the intervertebral disks and skeleton parts do not require any special preparation. For examinations of the stomach and pelvis, 1-2 liters of contrast medium solution are usually given to drink, so as to be able to

define the image in the gastrointestinal tract. This type of contrast medium does not normally contain iodine, instead comprising a barium compound. You do not need to come with an empty stomach for most examinations, a little nourishment being recommended.

The examination planned for you might mean it is necessary to administer a contrast medium containing iodine intravenously. Contrast media are generally well tolerated; in the case of hypersensitivity (allergy), however, nausea, itching, skin rash and similar can occur, which usually disappear quickly.

Hypersensitivity reactions by individual organs or your circulation are rare. Serious, life-threatening reactions are extremely rare.

To ensure the examination progresses smoothly, we kindly request you answer some questions which are given on the following page, as accurately as possible.