

CT Scan of the Sinuses

What is a CT Scan of the Sinuses?

Your doctor has suggested you have a CT scan as part of the evaluation at National Jewish. A CT or CAT scan is a shortened name for computerized tomography. A CT scan takes pictures of the inside of the body. The pictures are more detailed than a typical x-ray. During a CT scan of the sinuses pictures are taken of cross sections or slices of the sinuses. The sinuses are air-filled cavities in your head. Ct scans can identify problems with your sinuses. Your doctor will use this information to determine the best treatment for you.

How do you get ready for the test?

- Avoid doing a nasal wash at least 24 hours before a sinus CT scan.
- Remove glasses, earrings, hearing aids and dental appliances before the sinus CT scan.

What is done during the test?

The CT scan does not hurt. The radiology technologist will explain the CT scan to you before you start. Ask questions if you don't understand. Before the study you/your child will need to remove glasses, earrings, hearing aids and dental appliances.

The CT scanner includes a table you will lie on and a doughnut shaped ring. You will lie still on the table while it advances through the ring. You will lie still on the table. The technologist will give you instructions during the test. While you hold still the table will move through the ring while pictures are taken. It is important to lie still while the images are taken.

Young children may have trouble lying still during the CT scan. If this is the case the child may be given medicine to make him or her sleepy first. This is done in the Pediatric Care Unit. If this is done first, a nurse will also be at the CT scan. If you are concerned your young child may not be able to hold still talk with your doctor before the CT scan.

How long will the test take?

A CT scan of the sinuses takes about 15 minutes. The actual test will take about 5 minutes.

How do you get to your test?

If you are being seen at National Jewish Health, your appointment is in the Institute for Advanced Biomedical Imaging (Radiology). You will be directed where to go when you check-in. If you have any questions you can contact Advanced Biomedical Imaging (Radiology) at 303-398-1611.

Visit our website for more information about support groups, clinical trials and lifestyle information.

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