

TESTfacts

An Educational Health Series From National Jewish Health®



CT Scan of the Neck without Contrast

What is a CT scan of the neck?

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 neck pictures are taken of cross sections or slices of the neck. Your doctor will use this information to determine the best treatment for you.

How do you get ready for the test?

- ✓ Wear clothing you can remove from the waist up. You will be given a gown to wear.
- ✓ Remove glasses, earrings, hearing aids and dental appliances before the sinus CT scan.

What is done during the sinus CT scan?

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. 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. You will also be asked to refrain from swallowing for a few seconds while the pictures 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.

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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 neck takes about 15 minutes. The actual test will take about 5 minutes.

How do you get to your test?

Your appointment is in radiology. Radiology is in on the third floor of the Smith Building. On the day of your test, first report to the Admissions Desk just inside the Main Entrance. Admissions will direct you to the appropriate location for your test. If you have questions, or will not be able to make your appointment, please call: 303-398-1611.

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