

Computed tomography of the brain or skull

This examination can be used to study illnesses or changes in

- the brain and the skull or
- the pituitary gland and sella turcica.

Sella turcica is a saddle-shaped area located in the head, below the brain. The pituitary gland is located within the sella turcica.

Computed tomography (CT) uses X-rays to take cross-section images. The examination is painless.

Please reserve approximately 1 hour for your visit. The examination usually takes 20 minutes. Patients who need urgent examinations may be examined before you.

Please see the arrival instructions or appointment letter for contact information, if you have any questions about the examination.

Before the examination

- Eat and drink as usual.
- Please remove any jewelry from the head and neck area before the scans, because they cause glitches in the images. It is best to leave the jewelry at home.
- **If you are hypersensitive to iodine contrast medium**, please inform the doctor who referred you to this examination as soon as possible.

During the examination

Sometimes it is necessary to inject contrast medium into a blood vessel. A radiologist will decide if it is necessary to use contrast medium.

If contrast medium is given during your scan, a radiographer will place a cannula into your blood vessel. The contrast medium will be injected into the cannula. The contrast medium makes it easier to see different tissues in the images.

The contrast medium may cause a warm sensation in your body during the scan. You may also sense a metallic or foul taste in your mouth. These sensations will pass quickly.

During the examination, you will lie on your back on an examination table. The examination table will move during the scan.

It is important that you remain still during the scan because movement causes blurred images.

After the examination

You will receive the results of the examination from the doctor who treats you.

If you do not know how to find out the results, please contact the outpatient clinic or ward that referred you to this examination.

Other things to note

You will not be charged for the examination separately.

Cancel the appointment if you cannot come. If you do not cancel, you will be charged a fine.

More information on penalty fees: www.hus.fi/en > For patient > Patient guide > After treatment > Patient fees > [Client fees | HUS](#) > Fee for unused service.