

CT myelogram

You have received a referral for a computed tomography examination.

A CT myelogram is an imaging test that uses a contrast medium and computed tomography (CT) to look for problems in the spinal canal.

Computed tomography uses X-rays to take cross-section images.

The unit responsible for your care will give you information about the place and time of the examination.

For the examination, you will be called to the ward either on the day before the examination or on the morning of the examination day.

Be prepared to stay in the ward for observation until the following day.

The examination consists of two stages and lasts 2–4 hours.

Patients who need urgent examinations may be examined before you.

Be prepared **not to drive a car** for 24 hours after the examination.

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

Before the examination

- Do not eat anything for 4 hours before the examination.
- Take your prescribed medication as instructed.
- At the ward, you will be given pre-medication prescribed by the radiologist.
- **If you are treated with anticoagulants**, inform the doctor who treats you already when booking the time for the examination, because the medication must be stopped 2 days before the examination.
- **If you are hypersensitive to iodine contrast medium**, please inform the doctor who referred you to this examination as soon as possible.
- **If you are pregnant or suspect you might be pregnant**, please inform the doctor or the radiographer before the examination.

- **Do not drive a car** for 24 hours after the procedure.

During the examination

The examination begins by injecting contrast medium into the spinal canal in the examination room.

After that, a CT scan of the spine is performed.

The CT scan of the cervical spine is done approximately 15 minutes later.

The lumbar spine examination is done approximately 2–4 hours after the injection of the contrast medium.

In the examination room, you will be positioned on your side.

The injection area will be cleaned and numbed.

The radiologist will inject iodine-based contrast medium into the spinal canal.
After this, various X-ray images of your spine may be taken in different positions.

You will need to lie in bed on the ward with your head slightly elevated until the CT scan.

During the examination, you need to lie still, because movement causes blurry images.

The radiographer will see you, hear you and be able to talk to you during the examination.

After the examination

After the lumbar puncture, you must stay in bed rest for 2 hours.

Following this, your condition will be monitored for 2–4 hours.

If you do not experience headaches or other symptoms, you can go home after the CT examination.
If you experience headaches or other symptoms, you need to stay in bed and remain on the ward.

If symptoms occur after returning home, please contact the ward.

More detailed instructions will be given to you by the radiologist or the ward doctor.

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.

