

# CT of the Head

## Why is it done?

A CT of the head helps to assess head injuries, severe headaches, dizziness, aneurysm, bleeding, stroke and brain tumors. It also helps your doctor evaluate your sinuses, face and skull.

## How to prepare:

*Please tell the technologist if you have an insulin pump.*

- Remove metal objects, such as a jewelry, dentures and eyeglasses, which might interfere with image results
- Refrain from eating or drinking for a few hours before your scan

## What to expect during the test:

You will lie on a long table and your head will be positioned in the center of a large donut-shaped CT machine. A CT scan only takes a few minutes. It is normal to hear a whirring noise. Movement can blur the images, so you will be asked to stay very still.

## Contrast material

A special dye called contrast material may be needed for your CT scan to help highlight the area of your body being examined. The contrast material blocks X-rays and appears white on images, which can help emphasize blood vessels and other structures. If contrast dye is given it will be by an injection in your arm. You may experience a feeling of warmth during the injection or a metallic taste in your mouth.

## What to expect after the test:

- You can resume your usual activities and normal diet immediately.
- The results of your exam should be available to your physician within 24 hours after the test.
- Your physician will discuss the test results with you.