

Procedure for a CT Head Scan with dye inserted (contrast material)

A CT Head Scan takes pictures of your head. CT stands for Computed Tomography (CT), and is sometimes called a CAT scan. Contrast material, or contrast dye, is a substance used to make things more visible on X-rays. Common contrast material substances include iodine, barium, and gadolinium. This is what will happen when you need to get a CT Head Scan with dye inserted into your arm.

1. You go to the desk to tell them you have come
2. You might have to sit and wait.
3. You will be asked to take clips from your hair as well as jewellery such as necklaces. You will walk into the x-ray room.
4. You will lie on a bed that has scanner attached to it. The scanner is shaped like a donut.
5. The radiology technologist will put a strap around your head to help you keep still.
6. The bed and you will move into the scanner
7. The radiology technologist will go into a room near you. They can still see and hear you.
8. The scanner will start and you will hear noises
9. The scanner will move around you and take pictures. You will hear clicking sounds or humming.
10. You will move a bit after each scan. You may not feel this.
11. When the scan is finished you and the bed will come out of the scanner.
12. The radiology technologist may then give you a small needle in the arm so x-ray dye can be given to you.
13. Another set of x-rays will be taken – the same as before.
14. The radiology technologist will take the strap off your head.
15. You will get off the bed.
16. You will walk out of the room and wait.
17. The radiologist will look at the pictures to make sure they are ok.
18. You can then go home. You may be able to take the x-ray pictures with you or the radiology technologist will send them to your doctor.