

Computed Tomography (CT) Scan

A Computed Tomography Scan (CT Scan) is a noninvasive test that uses an x-ray beam and a computer to make 2-dimensional images of the brain and bony structures surrounding it.

During the test, the patient lies on a table and the CT Scanner rotates around the patient and takes pictures. These two-dimensional images of the brain can be looked at individually or combined to create a three-dimensional image.

A dye (contrast agent) may be injected into the patient's bloodstream to allow a more precise view of the targeted body tissues. This dye contains iodine, which moves through the blood stream and is absorbed in the tissues. The x-rays cannot penetrate the iodine and the targeted tissues are enhanced on the scan.