

CT Petrous Temporal Bones (PTB)

The petrous temporal bones contain air-filled cavities located at the sides and base of the skull.

CT scans of this area show detailed images of the bones of the middle ear and can be used to:

- help diagnose hearing loss,
- demonstrate a tumour,
- show evidence of trauma,
- detect the presence of infections of the ear and mastoids,
- plan for a mastoidectomy and cochlear implant placement in hearing loss,
- demonstrate suspected inner ear disease,
- show disorders of the temporal mandibular joints.

BEFORE THE SCAN:

Metal objects, including earrings & other facial piercings, glasses, dentures, hearing aids and hairpins, may affect the CT images and are removed (if possible) prior to the scan.

There is no other preparation for the scan.

DURING THE SCAN:

For a CT scan of the petrous temporal bones, you will be asked to lie flat on your back, with your head in a head rest and chin tilted. It is important that you do not move during the scan.

The scan itself should only take a few minutes, but please allow yourself up to half an hour for the appointment.