

CT Sinuses

The paranasal sinus cavities are hollow, air-filled spaces within the bones of the face surrounding the nasal cavity. There are four pairs of sinuses, each connected to the nasal cavity by small openings.

CT scanning is the most reliable imaging technique for determining if the sinuses are obstructed and the best imaging modality for sinusitis.

CT of the sinuses is also used to:

- evaluate sinuses that are filled with fluid or thickened sinus membranes,
- detect the presence of inflammatory diseases,
- provide additional information about tumours of the nasal cavity and sinuses,
- plan for surgery by defining anatomy.

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 sinuses, 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.