



CONSTANT OR REPEATED HEADACHES

This brochure tells you about Headache and how it is diagnosed, including what Imaging tests you may need to have.

What is a Headache?

A headache is where you have pain in your head, but sometimes your pain may also be in your neck or the top of your back. Headaches are one of the most common problems people complain about. Most headaches are caused by migraine, tension, eye strain, not drinking enough water, low blood sugar or sinusitis.

Diagnosis

Your doctor will discuss the signs and symptoms of your headache. You would not normally need an x-ray or CT scan for diagnosis, but if your doctor thinks something more serious may be causing your headache, he/she may request a CT scan.

The following are some of the reasons that may lead your doctor to request a x-ray or CT scan if your headache is associated with any of the following:

- abnormal behaviour or mental state changes
- fever or neck stiffness
- if you have cancer
- headache causing waking from sleep
- recent use of amphetamine or cocaine
- if you are pregnant or just given birth
- new headache if you are elderly
- progressively worsening headache

Depending on what the CT scan shows, your doctor may request further tests which may include MRI and/or other tests.

Further Information

For more detailed information, please see [Inside Radiology](#), a resource produced especially for consumers by the [Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists](#).

If you would like to look at other relevant brochures, please see

- [CT Scan](#)

- [MRI Scan](#)
- [Radiation risks of x-rays and scans](#)

Or log into the Diagnostic Imaging Pathways website - www.imagingpathways.health.wa.gov.au/includes/consumer.html

or

If you have questions or require any further information please contact your doctor.

Consumer Participation

This information has been reviewed by representatives from the following groups:

- Aboriginal people
- People with disabilities
- Seniors
- CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse)
- The Health Consumers' Council.

Feedback

The Division of Imaging Services, Royal Perth Hospital is committed to providing a friendly and professional service. If you would like to provide feedback on this information sheet, please send to:

Quality Coordinator
Imaging Services
Royal Perth Hospital
GPO Box X2213
Perth WA 6000

Website

For more information go to www.imagingpathways.health.wa.gov.au

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