

Information for Consumers - Sinusitis (Acute)

This article tells you about acute sinusitis and how it is diagnosed, including what imaging tests you may need to have.

What is acute sinusitis?

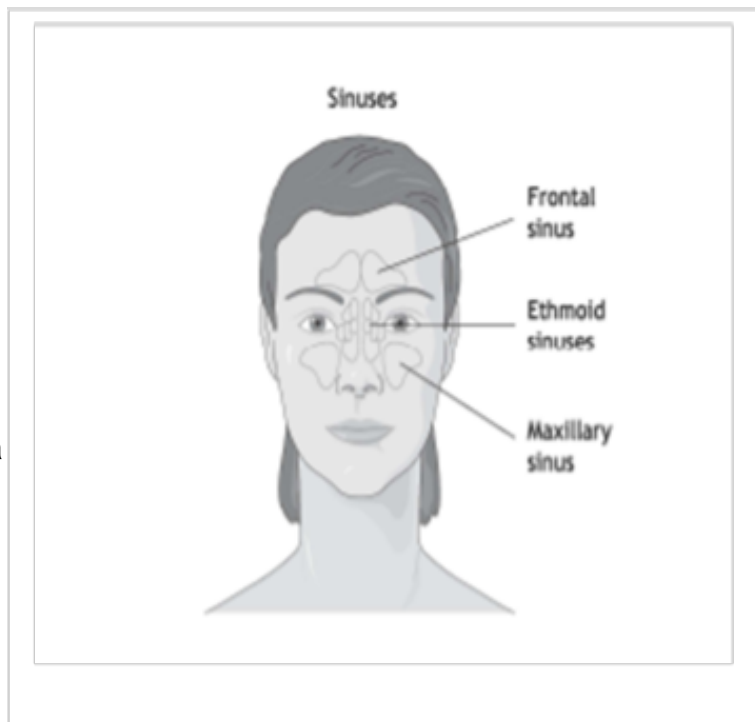
Sinusitis is inflammation in your sinuses. There are two sinuses on your forehead (frontal sinuses), two on the sides of the bridge of your nose (ethmoid sinuses), and two behind the cheekbones (maxillary sinuses). The sinuses behind your cheekbones are the ones that are most often affected.

Sinusitis may also be called rhino sinusitis. Rhino sinusitis is inflammation in your nose (rhinitis) and your sinuses (sinusitis).

Acute sinusitis usually develops after you have had a cold or flu. It can develop very quickly and usually lasts a week or more. If your doctor thinks you have a bacterial infection, you will usually be given a prescription for antibiotics.

Symptoms of acute sinusitis are:

- Pain or pressure in the forehead, cheeks, nose and between the eyes
- Fever
- Headache
- A blocked or runny nose
- Aching teeth
- Lost sense of smell



Diagnosis

X-ray examinations are not normally required for diagnosis but your doctor may request a CT scan if you are not improving on antibiotic treatment, or if you keep getting sinusitis. Your doctor may also refer you to an ENT (Ear, nose and throat) specialist.

Results

If you have a scan, the amount of time it takes for you to get your results will differ depending on where you get your scans done. A radiology doctor will look at the CT scan and write a report for your doctor.

An MRI scan may occasionally be necessary depending on the result of the CT scan.

Further information

For more detailed information, please access InsideRadiology at: www.insideradiology.com.au



This is a resource produced especially for consumers by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists: www.ranzcr.edu.au

A guide to gathering information that you may need for making informed decisions is published by the Consumers' Health Council of Australia at: <https://chf.org.au>

If you would like to look at other relevant articles, please access the following:

- [CT scan](#)
- [Radiation risks of x-rays and scans](#)

Or access the Diagnostic Imaging Pathways website at:
www.imagingpathways.health.wa.gov.au/index.php/consumer-info

Or if you have questions or require any further information please contact your doctor or speak to the staff where you are going to have your procedure.

References

Acute Sinusitis: www.patient.co.uk

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

All feedback, comments and suggestions regarding consumer information at Diagnostic Imaging Pathways are welcome. Please direct them to the following email address: dipfeedback@health.wa.gov.au

Disclaimer

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