

# What You Need to Know About Your Scan and Radiology Report

Scans are tests that make detailed pictures of inside the body to help make a diagnosis, plan treatment, or find out how treatment is working. You may also hear scans referred to as medical imaging. Examples are computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). There are many other types of scans.

After you have a scan, a doctor called a radiologist interprets the scan and writes a report. The radiologist then sends the report to your treatment team who gives you the results. You may see this report on Patient Gateway before your treatment team explains it to you. Reports often contain complex words. Your treatment team will review and answer any questions you have at your next appointment. **If you have any questions, be sure to ask your treatment team. Your team is here for you.**

## Sections of the Radiology Report

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### Type of test

This section shows the date, time, and type of test.

*Example: CT of the pelvis with intravenous contrast performed on 10/9/2020.*

### Clinical history

This section contains personal information that makes the report unique to your type of cancer. It may also contain questions that your treatment team is asking. It may include:

- important information about your personal health history, such as known diagnosis or symptoms
- your age
- your gender

*Example: 71-year-old male with a history of prostate cancer and new onset pelvic pain.*

### Comparison

This section may compare new scans with any scans you have had before, usually on the same area of the body.

*Example: Comparison is made to a CT scan of the pelvis performed 8/21/18.*



## Technique

This section explains how the scan was done and if contrast was used. Contrast is the dye used to help the radiologist see inside the body.

## Findings

This section explains what was found in the scan. It usually is listed out by parts of the body that were examined. This section may contain complex words. We understand this can cause you some anxiety. Your treatment team will help you understand what this section means at your next appointment.

*Example:*

*Bowel – within normal limits*

*Kidneys – no masses or nodules*

## Impression

This section is a summary of the findings and can help guide you and your treatment team in making decisions going forward. If there are any abnormal findings or the scan does not answer our questions, more testing may be recommended. Your treatment team will help you make sense of the findings and any next steps.

## What can I do if I am feeling anxious about my report?

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We understand that looking at your results can be overwhelming and that it is a lot to take in. If you do not have a follow-up appointment scheduled, please call to make an appointment. We will work to get you seen as soon as we can.



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