

Interventional procedures

What is an interventional procedure?

Interventional procedures (also known as interventional radiology) are a medical subspecialty of radiology that uses minimally invasive image-guided procedures to diagnose and treat diseases. They can be used in nearly every organ system, including the vascular, gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, genitourinary, pulmonary, musculoskeletal, and central nervous systems.

These procedures minimise risk, improve health outcomes, and overall recovery time, when compared to more invasive procedures.

Interventional procedures are conducted using the latest technology in diagnostic imaging – either under CT, fluoroscopy, or ultrasound. The type of intervention requested will determine which imaging modality will be used.

What happens during my interventional procedure?

The radiographer will position you on the examination table, usually lying flat on your back. They may place monitors on you to measure your blood pressure, heart rate, and oxygen levels. If needed, an intravenous (IV) line will be placed in your arm for medication, and you will be sedated for the procedure if a sedative or anaesthetic has been planned.

Please feel free to ask the radiographer any questions before or after the procedure.

How long will the interventional procedure take?

The duration of an interventional procedure will vary depending on the type of procedure you are having.

Qscan's customer service team will let you know how long your procedure will take when you book your appointment.

Do I need to prepare for my interventional procedure?

All preparation required for your examination will be explained to you when you make your booking. If you are receiving intravenous sedation, please do not eat or drink anything after midnight on the day before your procedure. Medication can still be taken with a small amount of water.

Otherwise, no special preparation is required. After the procedure you will be taken to a recovery room for observation, and you will be given discharge instructions before you leave the clinic.

What is the radiation dose?

Interventional procedures using CT and fluoroscopy guidance are performed using the lowest radiation dose possible and all measures are taken to limit the amount of radiation used.

Interventional procedures using ultrasound guidance uses sound waves only and does not use ionising radiation.

Please keep in mind that your doctor believes the benefit of this examination outweighs the very small risk to your health caused by exposing your body to this low dose of radiation.

How much will my interventional procedure cost?

The cost of each interventional procedure varies according to your medical requirements. For further clarification on the expected costs for your examination, please contact Qscan's customer service staff.