



Is a brain scan helpful to investigate a migraine?

People suffering from headache can sometimes understandably be anxious about the possibility of a tumour or other problems within the brain

Your healthcare professional will obviously decide on the diagnosis of your headache condition and whether scans are needed.

You can be reassured that in the case of migraine and most common headache conditions there is generally no need for a brain scan.

We know there is usually no need for a brain scan because studies have shown no significant increase in abnormal scans in people with isolated longstanding headache and a normal neurological examination.

If you do have a brain scan it is worth being aware that incidental findings, that do not cause symptoms, can sometimes be commented upon in the radiology report.

We have produced an information sheet to tell you more about these “incidental findings” available on this site.

We would recommend you read this if you are referred for a scan or want to know more about the pros and cons of brain scans