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# CT Scan vs. MRI

Medically reviewed by [J. Keith Fisher, MD](#) on August 23, 2018 — Written by Tessa Sawyers

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## The difference between an MRI and CT scan

[CT scans](#) and MRIs are both used to capture images within your body.

The biggest difference is that MRIs (magnetic resonance imaging) use radio waves and CT (computed tomography) scans use [X-rays](#).

While both are relatively low risk, there are differences that may make each one a better option depending on the circumstances.

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