



# CT Imaging

CT imaging provides highly detailed images of tissues, vessels, and organs using a special scanner and computer. CT stands for Computerized Tomography.



## General Instructions:

- This exam must be scheduled through centralized scheduling at 814-467-3438, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Have your physician's office check with your insurance carrier about coverage requirements and authorization.
- Report to outpatient registration on the first floor with your signed order **at least 15 minutes before** your appointment, unless you are given other instructions.
- If you need to cancel your appointment, please call us 24 hours before the scan.
- The results will be sent to your physician.
- Before your test, make sure your doctor tells the centralized scheduling department if any of the following conditions apply to you:
  - Allergy to iodine
  - Pregnancy
  - Taking Glucophage or Glucovance (Metformin)
  - History of asthma, diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease, or high blood pressure.

## Instructions Before the Test:

- Head, Sinuses, TMJ, Facial Bones, Temporal Bones: No diet restrictions unless receiving IV contrast, then nothing to eat or drink after midnight.
- Cervical Spine: No diet restrictions.
- Abdomen and/or Pelvis: Do not eat or drink after midnight. Report to registration 1 hour before the exam. Schedule before other barium exams (oral/rectal).
- Neck: No diet restrictions unless receiving IV contrast, then nothing to eat or drink after midnight.
- Chest, Thorax, Pulmonary Embolism Protocol: No diet restrictions unless receiving IV contrast, then nothing to eat or drink after midnight.
- Renal Stone Protocol: No diet restrictions. Drink plenty of water to fill your bladder.
- You may take your medicine (regular/prescribed) with a small amount of water unless otherwise instructed by your doctor.
- For a.m. appointments, do not eat or drink 4-6 hours prior to your test, if your test requires IV and/or oral contrast.
- For p.m. appointments that require IV and/or oral contrast, you may have a light breakfast, but then nothing to eat 4-6 hours prior, depending on the exam.
- Scheduling will let you know how long you will need to fast when scheduling your test.

## Will I need "dye" or to drink barium?

- The use of contrast media depends on the scan and the reason for the exam. Some patients may be given more than one type of contrast media.
- IV Contrast: Patients receiving IV contrast or "dye" may experience a brief sensation of warmth, nausea, metallic taste in the mouth, or a flushed feeling throughout the

body, especially in the bladder. This is normal and passes quickly. You will be closely monitored for any reaction. Inform the technologist of any effect that you feel.

- Oral Contrast: Most exams of the abdomen or pelvis require oral contrast. Scanning will begin 30-60 minutes after drinking the contrast.
- Rectal Contrast: Some exams of the pelvis require contrast through an enema tip. After the exam the contrast is drained.

## How long with the exam take?

- Most CT scans take between 15-45 minutes depending on what exams have been ordered.

## Will I feel any pain?

- CT scans do not cause pain. However, lying in one position may be slightly uncomfortable. Patients requiring IV contrast may experience a little discomfort from a small needle placed in the vein.

## How will the exam be performed?

- The technologist will ask you about your medical history.
- You may be asked to change into a patient gown.
- You will be asked to lie very still on a table.
- The table slowly passes through the center of a large x-ray machine.
- You may hear whirring sounds during the exam.
- You may be asked to hold your breath.
- If your exam requires IV contrast, an IV will be started before the exam.