



CT Scan

Computed Tomography

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What is a CT Scan?

A CT (computed tomography) scan is an advanced imaging technique which uses x-rays to produce detailed cross-sectional images of your body. CT scans show the internal organs much better than standard x-rays do. They are a common and important examination technique in modern medicine.



What are the risks?

To ensure the best imaging quality at the lowest radiation dose, our clinics use state-of-the-art CT machines. We use scanning techniques to achieve the diagnostic image quality at the lowest reasonably achievable radiation dose. Your doctors will only perform a CT scan when we believe that the health risk from exposure to medical radiation is outweighed by the health benefit.

CT scans generate very detailed images (more so than X-ray) for your diagnosis. Conversely, some areas of the body are more sensitive to radiation exposure and the health benefit versus possible detriment will be considered by your specialist before referring you for this procedure and by our medical imaging technologists and specialist radiology doctors.



Some CT scans require us to give contrast through the arm vein. This shows up on the CT images and enables the radiologist to evaluate some medical problems better. Like all medications, there is a risk of an allergic reaction to the contrast and this will be explained to you if we need to give you contrast.

Pre-examination

When you contact us for an appointment, we will need to know a few things:

- If you are, or could, be pregnant
- For CT scans where we will be giving you intravenous contrast, whether you have:
 - Kidney disease, currently, or at anytime in the past
 - An allergy to CT contrast
 - Diabetes, and if you do, whether you take a diabetes medicine containing metformin
- Whether you would like interpreter services

When you make this appointment, instructions will be given to you about your CT scan, including:

- Details regarding any special preparation needed before your scan
- Details on how to arrange “prior approval” from your medical insurance company for your CT examination.
- What the requirements of ACC are, to fund your CT examination
- Information about what to do after your CT scan is completed

The examination

When you arrive you may be asked to change into a gown. It is necessary to remove metallic objects such as jewellery, dentures, hearing aids, if they will be in the area that we will scan. A technologist trained in the use of CT will position you on a bed that moves through a large “donut” shaped scanner. Although the scanning bed moves during the scan, you will be asked to remain very still and you may be asked to hold your breath while some images are taken.

Intravenous contrast

In some cases, a radiologist will prescribe intravenous contrast, which is administered by the technologist through a vein in your arm. We will need to know if you have had an allergy to intravenous contrast in the past, or if you have had kidney disease or diabetes. Please inform our clinic about this before you arrive.

Post examination

When your CT scan is completed the radiologist will interpret the images and send a report to your doctor.





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