



Patient Information  
Tests and Procedures

CT Scan

## **CT Department**

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# Computed Tomography of the Brain

## What is the test?

- Computed Tomography (also known as CT scan) allows Physicians to see a single slice of the body, just as if you were taking a slice of bread out of a loaf. Using this technology, Physicians can view the inside of anatomic structures. A CT Scan of the Brain is done for several reasons. Some may be to check for bleeding, tumors, blood clots or signs of stroke.

## How do I prepare for the test?

- There is no preparation needed if your exam has been ordered without contrast material.
- After you are brought to the CT Suite, you will be asked several questions about your medical history. This is important because it gives the radiologist information that will help him/her interpret your exam. It is also important because it lets the CT technologist determine if there are any special changes he/she should make in your exam.
- Before the examination, the CT technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have.
- If you have had any previous reaction to contrast (“X-ray dye”) or if you have any known allergies, please let the technologist know prior to the start of your exam.
- Also let your technologist know if you think you might be pregnant. Women from age 12 – 55 must have had their menstrual cycle within 21 days of a CT scan.

## What happens when the test is performed?

- A CT scan of the Brain will take approximately 5 to 15 minutes depending whether or not contrast is used.
- The CT technologist will position you on the scanning table. You will also be secured with a safety strap. Once the scan begins, even the slightest movement can blur the image, so it is important to hold as still as possible.
- It may be necessary to administer IV contrast through your vein. The contrast agent helps visualize tissues in the area being studied. If you feel itchy or short of breath at any time after the administration of this contrast, please tell the technologist immediately.

## **Computed Tomography of the Brain**

### **What happens when the test is performed? (Continued)**

- The technologist will guide the scanning table into the CT unit. The technologist will not be in the room during your scan, but will be able to observe you through a window from the adjacent room. They will be able to hear you and talk to you through a two-way microphone system.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.
- When the exam is complete, your CT scans will be given to the radiologist (a physician who specializes in the diagnostic interpretation of medical images).

### **Must I do anything special after the test is over?**

- If you were given IV contrast during your procedure, it is important to increase your fluid consumption in the days following the examination if your diet allows.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the CT Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## Computed Tomography of the Chest

### What happens when the test is performed? (Continued)

#### What is the test?

- Computed Tomography (also known as CT scan) allows Physicians to see a single slice of the body, just as if you were taking a slice of bread out of a loaf. Using this technology, Physicians can view the inside of anatomic structures. A CT Scan of the Chest is done for several reasons. Some may be to check for a mass, pneumonia, trauma or even a collapsed lung.

#### How do I prepare for the test?

- After you are brought to the CT Suite, you will be asked several questions about your medical history. This is important because it gives the radiologist information that will help him/her interpret your exam. It is also important because it lets the CT technologist determine if there are any special changes he/she should make in your exam.
- Before the examination, the CT technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have.
- If you have had any previous reaction to contrast (“X-ray dye”) or if you have any known allergies, please let the technologist know prior to the start of your exam.
- Also let your technologist know if you think you might be pregnant. Women from age 12 – 55 must have had their menstrual cycle within 21 days of a CT scan.

#### What happens when the test is performed?

- A CT scan of the Chest will take approximately 10 minutes. You will be asked to remove any metal that is on your chest area. You will be provided a secure place to store these items during your scan.
- The CT technologist will position you on the scanning table. You will also be secured with a safety strap. Once the scan begins, even the slightest movement can blur the image, so it is important to hold as still as possible.
- It may be necessary to administer IV contrast through your vein. The contrast agent helps visualize tissues in the area being studied. If you feel itchy or short of breath at any time after the administration of this contrast, please tell the technologist immediately.

## **Computed Tomography of the Chest**

### **What happens when the test is performed? (Continued)**

- The technologist will guide the scanning table into the CT unit. The technologist will not be in the room during your scan, but will be able to observe you through a window from the adjacent room. They will be able to hear you and talk to you through a two-way microphone system.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.
- When the exam is complete, your CT scans will be given to the radiologist (a physician who specializes in the diagnostic interpretation of medical images).

### **Must I do anything special after the test is over?**

- If you were given IV contrast during your procedure, it is important to increase your fluid consumption in the days following the examination if your diet allows.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the CT Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## Computed Tomography of the Extremities

### What is the test?

- Computed Tomography (also known as CT scan) allows Physicians to see a single slice of the body, just as if you were taking a slice of bread out of a loaf. Using this technology, Physicians can view the inside of anatomic structures. A CT of the Extremities is done for several different reasons. Some may be to check for bone abnormalities and infections.

### How do I prepare for the test?

- After you are brought to the CT Suite, you will be asked several questions about your medical history. This is important because it gives the radiologist information that will help him/her interpret your exam. It is also important because it lets the CT technologist determine if there are any special changes he/she should make in your exam.
- Before the examination, the CT technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have.
- Also let your technologist know if you think you might be pregnant. Women from age 12 – 55 must have had their menstrual cycle within 21 days of a CT scan.

### What happens when the test is performed?

- A CT of the Extremities will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes.
- The CT technologist will position you on the scanning table. You will also be secured with a safety strap. Once the scan begins, even the slightest movement can blur the image, so it is important to hold as still as possible.
- The technologist will guide the scanning table into the CT unit. The technologist will not be in the room during your scan, but will be able to observe you through a window from the adjacent room. They will be able to hear you and talk to you through a two-way microphone system.
- It may be necessary to administer IV contrast through your vein. The contrast agent helps visualize infection in the area being studied. If you feel itchy or short of breath at any time after the administration of this contrast, please tell the technologist immediately.

## **Computed Tomography of the Extremities**

### **What happens when the test is performed? (Continued)**

- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.
- When the exam is complete, your CT scans will be given to the radiologist (a physician who specializes in the diagnostic interpretation of medical images).

### **Must I do anything special after the test is over?**

- If you were given IV contrast during your procedure, it is important to increase your fluid consumption in the days following the examination if your diet allows.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the CT Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

# Computed Tomography of the Soft Tissue Neck

## What is the test?

- Computed Tomography (also known as CT scan) allows Physicians to see a single slice of the body, just as if you were taking a slice of bread out of a loaf. Using this technology, Physicians can view the inside of anatomic structures. A CT of the Neck is done for several different reasons. Some may be to check for a lump or mass.

## How do I prepare for the test?

- After you are brought to the CT Suite, you will be asked several questions about your medical history. This is important because it gives the radiologist information that will help him/her interpret your exam. It is also important because it lets the CT technologist determine if there are any special changes he/she should make in your exam.
- Before the examination, the CT technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have.
- If you have had any previous reaction to contrast (“X-ray dye”) or if you have any known allergies, please let the technologist know prior to the start of your exam.
- Also let your technologist know if you think you might be pregnant. Women from age 12 – 55 must have had their menstrual cycle within 21 days of a CT scan.

## What happens when the test is performed?

- A CT of the Neck will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes.
- The CT technologist will position you on the scanning table. You will also be secured with a safety strap. Once the scan begins, even the slightest movement can blur the image, so it is important to hold as still as possible.
- The technologist will guide the scanning table into the CT unit. The technologist will not be in the room during your scan, but will be able to observe you through a window from the adjacent room. They will be able to hear you and talk to you through a two-way microphone system.
- It may be necessary to administer IV contrast through your vein. The contrast agent helps visualize infection in the area being studied. If you feel itchy or short of breath at any time after the administration of this contrast, please tell the technologist immediately.

## **Computed Tomography of the Soft Tissue Neck**

### **What happens when the test is performed? (Continued)**

- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.
- When the exam is complete, your CT scans will be given to the radiologist (a physician who specializes in the diagnostic interpretation of medical images).

### **Must I do anything special after the test is over?**

- If you were given IV contrast during your procedure, it is important to increase your fluid consumption in the days following the examination if your diet allows.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the CT Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## Computed Tomography of the Abdomen and Pelvis

### What is the test?

- Computed Tomography (also known as CT scan) allows Physicians to see a single slice of the body, just as if you were taking a slice of bread out of a loaf. Using this technology, Physicians can view the inside of anatomic structures. A CT Scan of the Abdomen and Pelvis is done for several different reasons. Some may be to check for appendicitis, cancer, diverticulitis, trauma or even a kidney stone.

### How do I prepare for the test?

- You may be asked to drink oral contrast (also known as “Readicat”) 3 to 5 hours prior to your exam start time depending upon instructions given by the CT department to your nurse. This helps to highlight your intestinal tract.
- You can not have anything to drink or eat for at least 3 hours after you drink your Readicat or prior to the start of your exam.
- After you are brought to the CT Suite, you will be asked several questions about your medical history. This is important because it gives the radiologist information that will help him/her interpret your exam. It is also important because it lets the CT technologist determine if there are any special changes he/she should make in your exam.
- Before the examination, the CT technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have. You might be asked to drink moral Readicat before your scan. You may be asked to drink another cup of contrast depending on your history.
- If you have had any previous reaction to contrast (“X-ray dye”) or if you have any known allergies, please let the technologist know prior to the start of your exam.
- Also let your technologist know if you think you might be pregnant. Women from age 12 – 55 must have had their menstrual cycle within 21 days of a CT scan.

## **Computed Tomography of the Abdomen and Pelvis**

- A CT scan of the Abdomen and Pelvis will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes. You will be asked to remove any metal that is near your abdominal area. You will be provided a secure place to store these items during your scan.
- The CT technologist will position you on the scanning table. You will also be secured with a safety strap. Once the scan begins, even the slightest movement can blur the image, so it is important to hold as still as possible.
- It may be necessary to administer IV contrast through your vein. The contrast agent helps visualize tissues in the area being studied. If you feel itchy or short of breath at any time after the administration of this contrast, please tell the technologist immediately.
- The technologist will guide the scanning table into the CT unit. The technologist will not be in the room during your scan, but will be able to observe you through a window from the adjacent room. They will be able to hear you and talk to you through a two-way microphone system.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.
- When the exam is complete, your CT scans will be given to the radiologist (a physician who specializes in the diagnostic interpretation of medical images).

### **Must I do anything special after the test is over?**

- If you were given IV contrast during your procedure, it is important to increase your fluid consumption in the days following the examination if your diet allows.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the CT Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

# Computed Tomography Angiograms

## What is the test?

- Computed Tomography (also known as CT scan) allows Physicians to see a single slice of the body, just as if you were taking a slice of bread out of a loaf. Using this technology, Physicians can view the inside of anatomic structures. A CT Angiogram is done for several different reasons. Some may be to check for pulmonary embolus (blood clots), aneurysms or dissection and blockages of specific arteries.

## How do I prepare for the test?

- You can not have anything to drink or eat for at least 3 hours prior to your scheduled test.
- After you are brought to the CT Suite, you will be asked several questions about your medical history. This is important because it gives the radiologist information that will help him/her interpret your exam. It is also important because it lets the CT technologist determine if there are any special changes he/she should make in your exam.
- Before the examination, the CT technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have.
- If you have had any previous reaction to contrast (“X-ray dye”) or if you have any known allergies, please let the technologist know prior to the start of your exam.
- Also let your technologist know if you think you might be pregnant. Women from age 12 – 55 must have had their menstrual cycle within 21 days of a CT scan.

## What happens when the test is performed?

- A CT Angiogram will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes.
- The CT technologist will position you on the scanning table. You will also be secured with a safety strap. Once the scan begins, even the slightest movement can blur the image, so it is important to hold as still as possible.
- It may be necessary to administer IV contrast through your vein. The contrast agent helps visualize tissues in the area being studied. You will feel a warm sensation or metallic taste in your mouth during the procedure. This is normal and not a reaction to the “dye”.

## **Computed Tomography Angiograms**

### **What happens when the test is performed? (Continued)**

- If you feel itchy or short of breath at any time after the administration of this contrast, please tell the technologist immediately.
- The technologist will guide the scanning table into the CT unit. The technologist will not be in the room during your scan, but will be able to observe you through a window from the adjacent room. They will be able to hear you and talk to you through a two-way microphone system.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.
- When the exam is complete, your CT scans will be given to the radiologist (a physician who specializes in the diagnostic interpretation of medical images).

### **Must I do anything special after the test is over?**

- If you were given IV contrast during your procedure, it is important to increase your fluid consumption in the days following the examination if your diet allows.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the CT Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

# Computed Tomography Biopsy

## What is the test?

- Computed Tomography (also known as CT scan) allows Physicians to see a single slice of the body, just as if you were taking a slice of bread out of a loaf. Using this technology, Physicians can view the inside of anatomic structures. A CT Biopsy is done for several different reasons. Some may be to evaluate an abnormal area in your lung, liver, kidney or bone.

## How do I prepare for the test?

- You can not have anything to drink or eat for at least 3 hours prior to your scheduled test.
- After you are brought to the CT Suite, you will be asked several questions about your medical history. This is important because it gives the radiologist information that will help him/her interpret your exam. It is also important because it lets the CT technologist determine if there are any special changes he/she should make in your exam.
- Before the examination, the CT technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have.
- Also let your technologist know if you think you might be pregnant. Women from age 12 – 55 must have had their menstrual cycle within 21 days of a CT scan.

## What happens when the test is performed?

- A CT Biopsy will take approximately 30 minutes to 2 hours.
- A radiology nurse will explain the procedure to you and verify your medical history.
- Your blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen level will be monitored by the radiology nurse throughout the procedure.
- The CT technologist will position you on the scanning table either flat on your back or lying on your stomach, depending upon the area to be biopsied. You will also be secured with a safety strap.
- You will be given specific breathing instructions and then the CT technologist will scan you to pinpoint the specific area of interest.
- Once the scan begins, even the slightest movement can blur the image, so it is important to hold as still as possible.

## Computed Tomography Biopsy

### What happens when the test is performed? (Continued)

- The Interventional Radiologist will check the initial images and decide where to insert the biopsy needle. A CT technologist will apply 3 special markers to the area in order to take more images.
- The technologist will guide the scanning table into the CT unit. The technologist will not be in the room during your scan, but will be able to observe you through a window from the adjacent room. They will be able to hear you and talk to you through a two-way microphone system.
- The Interventional Radiologist will sterilize the area, cover the area with a drape and inject a local anesthetic to numb the area being biopsied. This will feel like a pinprick and will be followed by a stinging or burning feeling for a few seconds. Sometimes, this needle will remain in the area while more images are taken to confirm the exact location.
- After the exact location of the biopsy is confirmed, the Interventional Radiologist will insert the biopsy needle and slight pressure may be felt, but no pain. More images are then taken until the needle has reached the area of suspicion. A tissue sample will then be taken from the needle by the Interventional radiologist and given to a technician from the Pathology Department for viewing under the microscope to determine if the sample is adequate.
- Another biopsy needle may need to be inserted for more tissue sampling. This is not uncommon; therefore, do not be alarmed. Once sufficient samples have been taken, the needle will be removed and more images will be taken.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.
- When the exam is complete, your tissue samples will be given to the pathologist (a physician who specializes in the interpretation of tissue samples).

### Must I do anything special after the test is over?

- No.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the CT Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

# Computed Tomography Drainage

## What is the test?

- Computed Tomography (also known as CT scan) allows Physicians to see a single slice of the body, just as if you were taking a slice of bread out of a loaf. Using this technology, Physicians can view the inside of anatomic structures. A CT Drainage is done to drain excess fluid/abscess from a specific area.

## How do I prepare for the test?

- You can not have anything to drink or eat for at least 3 hours prior to your scheduled test.
- After you are brought to the CT Suite, you will be asked several questions about your medical history. This is important because it gives the radiologist information that will help him/her interpret your exam. It is also important because it lets the CT technologist determine if there are any special changes he/she should make in your exam.
- Before the examination, the CT technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have.
- Also let your technologist know if you think you might be pregnant. Women from age 12 – 55 must have had their menstrual cycle within 21 days of a CT scan.

## What happens when the test is performed?

- A CT Drainage will take approximately 45 minutes to 2 ½ hours.
- A radiology nurse will explain the procedure to you and verify your medical history.
- Your blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen level will be monitored by the radiology nurse throughout the procedure.
- The CT technologist will position you on the scanning table either flat on your back or lying on your side, depending upon the area to be drained. You will also be secured with a safety strap.
- You will be given specific breathing instructions and then the CT technologist will scan you to pinpoint the specific area of interest.
- Once the scan begins, even the slightest movement can blur the image, so it is important to hold as still as possible.

## Computed Tomography Drainage

### What happens when the test is performed? (Continued)

- The Interventional Radiologist will check the initial images and decide where to insert the drainage needle. A CT technologist will apply 3 special markers to the area in order to take more images.
- The technologist will guide the scanning table into the CT unit. The technologist will not be in the room during your scan, but will be able to observe you through a window from the adjacent room. They will be able to hear you and talk to you through a two-way microphone system.
- The Interventional Radiologist will sterilize the area, cover the area with a drape and inject a local anesthetic to numb the area being drained. This will feel like a pinprick and will be followed by a stinging or burning feeling for a few seconds. Sometimes, this needle will remain in the area while more images are taken to confirm the exact location.
- After the exact location of the fluid/abscess is confirmed, the Interventional Radiologist will insert the drainage catheter and slight pressure may be felt, but no pain. More images are then taken until the catheter has reached the area of excess fluid.
- Once the catheter has reached the fluid, it will be connected to a drainage bag and secured to your body. Fluid will start draining into the bag immediately and you will soon feel better.
- Your nurse will monitor the fluid and drain the collection bag. The drainage bag will be removed by your physician or nurse.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.

### Must I do anything special after the test is over?

- Be aware that the catheter is still inside and draining the excess fluid. Try to limit your movement until the collection bag is removed.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the CT Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## Computed Tomography of the Soft Tissue Neck

### What is the test?

- Computed Tomography (also known as CT scan) allows Physicians to see a single slice of the body, just as if you were taking a slice of bread out of a loaf. Using this technology, Physicians can view the inside of anatomic structures. A CT of the Neck is done for several different reasons. Some may be to check for a lump or mass.

### How do I prepare for the test?

- After you are brought to the CT Suite, you will be asked several questions about your medical history. This is important because it gives the radiologist information that will help him/her interpret your exam. It is also important because it lets the CT technologist determine if there are any special changes he/she should make in your exam.
- Before the examination, the CT technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have.
- If you have had any previous reaction to contrast (“X-ray dye”) or if you have any known allergies, please let the technologist know prior to the start of your exam.
- Also let your technologist know if you think you might be pregnant. Women from age 12 – 55 must have had their menstrual cycle within 21 days of a CT scan.

### What happens when the test is performed?

- A CT of the Neck will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes.
- The CT technologist will position you on the scanning table. You will also be secured with a safety strap. Once the scan begins, even the slightest movement can blur the image, so it is important to hold as still as possible.
- The technologist will guide the scanning table into the CT unit. The technologist will not be in the room during your scan, but will be able to observe you through a window from the adjacent room. They will be able to hear you and talk to you through a two-way microphone system.
- It may be necessary to administer IV contrast through your vein. The contrast agent helps visualize infection in the area being studied. If you feel itchy or short of breath at any time after the administration of this contrast, please tell the technologist immediately.

## **Computed Tomography of the Soft Tissue Neck**

### **What happens when the test is performed? (Continued)**

- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.
- When the exam is complete, your CT scans will be given to the radiologist (a physician who specializes in the diagnostic interpretation of medical images).

### **Must I do anything special after the test is over?**

- If you were given IV contrast during your procedure, it is important to increase your fluid consumption in the days following the examination if your diet allows.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the CT Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**

## Computed Tomography of the Spine

### What is the test?

- Computed Tomography (also known as CT scan) allows Physicians to see a single slice of the body, just as if you were taking a slice of bread out of a loaf. Using this technology, Physicians can view the inside of anatomic structures. A CT Scan of the Spine is done for several reasons. Some may be to check for a herniated disc, trauma or even arm or leg numbness and weakness.

### How do I prepare for the test?

- After you are brought to the CT Suite, you will be asked several questions about your medical history. This is important because it gives the radiologist information that will help him/her interpret your exam. It is also important because it lets the CT technologist determine if there are any special changes he/she should make in your exam.
- Before the examination, the CT technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have.
- If you have had any previous reaction to contrast (“X-ray dye”) or if you have any known allergies, please let the technologist know prior to the start of your exam.
- Also let your technologist know if you think you might be pregnant. Women from age 12 – 55 must have had their menstrual cycle within 21 days of a CT scan.

### What happens when the test is performed?

- A CT scan of the Spine will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes.
- The CT technologist will position you on the scanning table. You will also be secured with a safety strap. Once the scan begins, even the slightest movement can blur the image, so it is important to hold as still as possible.
- Although rare, it may be necessary to administer IV contrast through your vein. The contrast agent helps visualize tissues in the area being studied. If you feel itchy or short of breath at any time after the administration of this contrast, please tell the technologist immediately.

## **Computed Tomography of the Spine**

### **What happens when the test is performed? (Continued)**

- The technologist will guide the scanning table into the CT unit. The technologist will not be in the room during your scan, but will be able to observe you through a window from the adjacent room. They will be able to hear you and talk to you through a two-way microphone system.
- If you have any physical limitations, please make the technologist aware prior to the beginning of the test. We can make special arrangements if necessary.
- When the exam is complete, your CT scans will be given to the radiologist (a physician who specializes in the diagnostic interpretation of medical images).

### **Must I do anything special after the test is over?**

- If you were given IV contrast during your procedure, it is important to increase your fluid consumption in the days following the examination if your diet allows.

### **How long is it before the result of the test is known?**

- Typically you can get the results from your Doctor within 24 hrs.

**If there is anything we can do to make you more comfortable while in the CT Department, please do not hesitate to ask.**