

CT (Computed Tomography)

hives or itching. You may be given medication to relieve it. You should inform your technologist immediately if you become light-headed or experience difficulty breathing.

When you enter the CT scanner, special lights may be used to ensure that you are properly positioned. You will hear some slight sounds as the CT scanner revolves around you during the imaging process.

You will be alone in the exam room during the scan but your technologist will be able to see, hear and speak with you at all times. A parent may be allowed in the room with a child patient but you will be required to wear an apron to prevent exposure to radiation.

After the exam, you may return to your normal activities. Special instructions may be given to you if you received a dose of contrast material. You should wait at least 24 hours before nursing a baby if you have been injected with contrast material.

Will I be able to drive home after the exam?

Yes, you will be able to drive yourself home after the procedure.

Who interprets my results and how do I get them?

A radiologist, a physician trained to interpret scans, will analyse your scan and send a signed report to your primary care or referring physician, who will share the results with you.



What is a CT scan?

Computed tomography (CT) scan is a series of x-ray views taken from many different angles to produce cross-sectional images of the bones, soft tissue, and blood vessels in your body. It is a non-invasive, painless procedure, which helps physician diagnose and treat certain medical conditions.

How can I prepare for the procedure?

Wear comfortable, loose clothing to the Hospital. You may be asked to wear a gown during the scan.

Remove all metal objects such as jewellery, eyeglasses, dentures and hairpins. These objects can affect the CT images and should be removed prior to your exam. You may also be asked to remove hearing aids and removable dental work.

You will be given special instructions before your exam. If contrast material, which is a dye that enhances the visibility of certain tissues or blood vessels, will be used, a nurse or technologist will draw a small amount of blood before the procedure to make sure that your kidneys are working properly.

Is there any information I need to relay to my physician?

Be sure to inform your physician of any recent illnesses or other medical conditions such as a history of heart or kidney disease, asthma, diabetes, or thyroid problems. Any of these conditions may increase the risk associated with the procedure. You should also notify your physician of any allergies or medication you may be taking.

Women should always let their physician or technologist if there is a possibility that they are pregnant because the x-rays can harm your baby.

How is the procedure performed?

You will be directed to the scan table and asked either to lie in a particular position. Straps and pillows may be used to maintain your position and hold still during the exam.

Next, the scan table will move quickly through the scanner to determine its starting position and then move slowly through the machine again as the actual scanning is performed. You may be asked to hold your breath during the scan.

Once this is completed, your technologist will ask you to wait until they have determined that your images are readable. The entire process is usually completed within 30 minutes.

What will I experience during the procedure?

Most CT exams are fast and painless. You may experience some discomfort from having to remain still during the procedure. If you have a hard time staying still, or have claustrophobia or chronic pain, your technologist may offer you a mild sedative to help. If a spiral CT is used, the amount of time you may need to lie down is reduced.

If it has been determined that you need to be injected with contrast material, you may have a warm, flushed sensation during the process and a metallic taste in your mouth that lasts a few minutes. On occasion, a patient may develop