

Computed Tomography (CT or CAT scan)

Computed Tomography (CT or CAT scan) is a diagnostic imaging procedure using a combination of X ray and computer technology to produce horizontal and vertical cross-sectional images (slices) of the body. CT provides a greater amount of detail including information about the internal organs than general X ray, and often requires a contrast agent or media to be ingested orally or injected intravenously to highlight additional structures.

Contrast: Both contrast materials require fasting for 4 hours prior to the exam, except in the case of an emergency. Oral contrast will require that you arrive 1 ½ hours prior to your scheduled test. If you are age 60 or older, diabetic or if you have a history of kidney disease, failure or abnormality, current lab results are required prior to IV contrast use. Labs are ordered by your physician to check your kidney function and must be within 30 days to warrant the safe administration of the IV contrast, a substance that causes your kidneys to function in an elevated capacity.

Diabetics: If you are diabetic and taking Metformin or Glucophage, you need to discontinue these meds for 48 hours post-injection of IV contrast. Please check with your physician before resuming. You may resume your usual diet and activities unless your physician advises otherwise. (You should consume several glasses of water in the 24 hours following IV contrast use.)

Allergic risks: There is a risk for allergic reaction to the IV dye. Patients who are allergic to or sensitive to medications, contrast dye, iodine or shellfish should notify their physician. If you've had a previous reaction, depending on the severity, you may be a candidate for pre-medication as a precaution for a possible allergic reaction. Pre-medication requires a specific medication protocol during the 12 hours prior to your exam and should be directed by the radiology nurse through central scheduling.

Post-procedure: If IV contrast dye was used during your procedure, you may be monitored for any side effects or reactions to the contrast dye, such as itching, swelling, rash or difficulty breathing. If you notice any pain, redness or swelling at the IV site after your procedure, notify your physician as this could indicate an infection or other type of reaction.

Pregnancy: If your physician is aware of a pregnancy and has ordered a CT exam, the procedure has been deemed medically urgent and necessary with the benefit outweighing any possible associated risks. If there is a possibility of pregnancy that your physician is not aware of, you should contact him/her immediately before proceeding with the exam. You may be asked to postpone your exam until pregnancy is not a concern. This information must be verified prior to your exam.

Please notify the technologist of any of the following:

- History of reaction to any contrast dye or allergy to iodine or seafood
- Body piercing in the area of interest of CT Scan
- Pregnancy or possibility of pregnancy
- History of kidney disease, failure or structural abnormality (born with one kidney, etc.)

We look forward to serving you!