

About Your Computerized Tomography (CT) Scan



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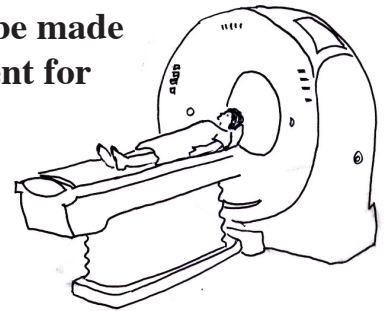
What is a CT Scan? (Computerized Tomography)

A CT Scan is a special kind of x-ray that makes a set of pictures of a part of your body.

It is a painless and safe way for the doctor to see inside your body. You may have heard this test called a Cat Scan.

A CT Scan shows normal and may show abnormal (not normal) areas in your body.

If you are a patient staying in the hospital, your appointment will be made for you. If you are a clinic patient, when you make the appointment for your test tell the clerk if :



- You are pregnant or might be pregnant.
- You have an allergy to any medicine.
- You are allergic to any foods.
- You are allergic to iodine or x-ray dye.
- You have high blood pressure, kidney problems, diabetes or asthma.

How should I get ready for a CT scan?

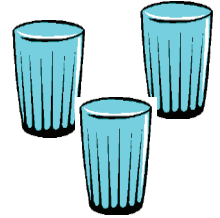
- You may eat a **light** breakfast or lunch (such as a bowl of cereal with milk), before your test.
- Do not eat enough food to make you full. You can drink 8 ozs. of clear liquids like water, tea, broth or jello anytime before the test.
- Wear comfortable clothes when you come for the test.
- If you are having a CT scan of your **head**, do not wear earrings, hairpins, hairclips or a wig.
- If you are having a CT scan of your **abdomen, chest, pelvis, or spine**, you will change into a hospital gown.
- Come to the Radiology Department on the Ground Floor about 30 minutes before your appointment. Bring a photo ID and have your medical record number with you.
- You may or may not get an iodine dye. If you get the iodine dye, you will get it by IV (in the vein).



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How will my test be done?

- The CT technologist will help you onto the CT scan table.
- If you are having a **body CT (abdomen, chest, pelvis, liver)** scan, you will be asked to hold your breath and not move for a few seconds at a time. You must hold still while the scanner is taking pictures of you. If you move, your pictures will not be clear. All pictures that are not clear must be taken again and this will make your test last longer.
- If you are having a scan of your **abdomen**, you may be asked to drink some liquid called oral contrast. This liquid will help the doctor see your bowels on the CT scan.
- If you are having a head CT scan, the technologist may or may not put a strap around your head. This will help to keep you from moving your head. Remember, it is very important to hold still while the CT scanner takes your pictures.



What happens after the CT scan?

- After the CT scan, the nurses will take the IV out if you have one.
- You will need to drink plenty of fluids (about 8 glasses) the rest of the day. Drinking fluids will help wash the x-ray dye out of your body.



How will I find out the results of the CT scan?



If you are in the hospital, the health care provider who ordered your test will tell you about your test results when they are ready. If you are a clinic patient your health care provider will tell you about your results at your next clinic appointment. Be sure to keep this important appointment. If you do not have a follow-up clinic appointment, call and schedule one with your health care provider.

Are there any special instructions I should follow when I get home?

No. You may go back to your usual activities.