

CT (CAT Scan)

What Is It and How to Prepare

What is a CT?

Computerized Tomography (CT) scanning is a rapid, painless diagnostic examination that combines X-rays and computers. A CT scan allows the radiologist to see the location, nature and extent of many different diseases or abnormalities inside your body.

Our computerized CT scanner incorporates all recent and dramatic advances. It is capable of ultra rapid scanning and helical imaging, a combination that allows an examination of the abdomen to be completed in seconds. The high-resolution images this system produces reveal unsurpassed details, and computers allow the radiologist to manipulate and reconstruct images in multiple planes, extrapolating 3- dimensional images from the original data. This enables physicians to visualize vessels and organs similar to “virtual reality”.

Exam Preparation

How to prepare for your CT Exam (CAT Scan)

The meal prior to your CT examination should consist of CLEAR liquids ONLY. (You may have coffee/tea WITHOUT milk; Jell-O; broth; soda and grape, cranberry or apple juice). In some cases, your referring physician will give you a packet of barium, which will highlight your intestines and colon for the procedure.

TWO (2) HOURS BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT

- Open packet of barium and mix with 20 ounces (1 large glass) of water or juice and drink it.

We request that you arrive at the facility 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment to complete patient registration information. We take pride in keeping on schedule, but emergencies do happen occasionally. The average time for your procedure to be completed is approximately 30 minutes to one hour.

The technologist will perform the procedure and a radiologist will dictate a report to be sent to your physician. The results of all examinations will be given to you by your referring doctor. (Results cannot be given to you by the technologist.)

- Prescription medications may be taken as usual.

EXCEPTION: Do not take Glucophage or Metformin.

