

# What is a CT Scan?

A computerized tomography (CT) scan combines a series of X-ray images taken from different angles around your body and uses computer processing to create cross-sectional images (slices) of the bones, blood vessels and soft tissues inside your body.



# What is a CT Scan?

A CT scan is used to visualize nearly all parts of the body and is used to diagnose disease or injury as well as to plan medical, surgical or radiation treatment.



# Preparing for a CT Scan

Depending on what part of your body is being scanned, you may be asked to:

- Take off some or all of your clothing and wear a hospital gown
- Remove metal objects that might interfere with image results
- Refrain from eating or drinking for several hours before your scan

# Preparing for a CT Scan

A special dye called contrast material is needed for some CT scans to help highlight the areas of your body being examined. The contrast material blocks X-rays and appears white on images, which can help emphasize blood vessels, intestines or other structures.

# Preparing for a CT Scan

The contrast material might be given to you by mouth or intravenously injected through an IV. During the IV contrast injection, it is normal to experience a feeling of warmth and/or a metallic taste or smell.

*If you have an Iodine allergy,  
please inform your technologist.*

# What to expect during a CT Scan

- A CT scan can take anywhere between 5 and 20 minutes.
- A narrow, motorized table will slide you through the scanner. Straps and pillows may be used to help you stay in position.
- While the table moves you into the scanner, detectors and the X-ray tube rotate around you. You may hear buzzing and whirring noises.

# What to expect during a CT Scan

- Please follow the provided breathing instructions given by the technologist during the exam. Movement can blur scan images.
- A technologist in a separate room can see and hear you. You will be able to communicate with the technologist.

# Important CT Scan safety information

- During a CT scan, you will be briefly exposed to ionizing radiation. The low doses of radiation used in CT scans have not been shown to cause long-term harm.



# Important CT Scan safety information

- We use the lowest dose of radiation possible to obtain the needed medical information.
- Newer, faster machines and techniques require less radiation than was previously used.

*If you are or may be pregnant,  
please inform your technologist!*