What is a CT Scan?

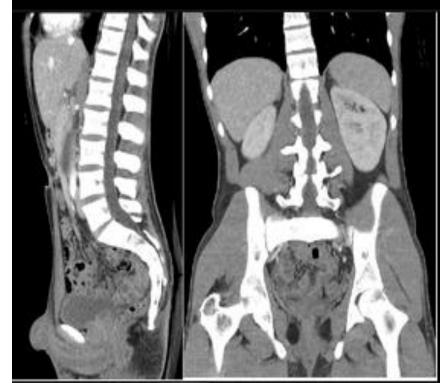
A computerized tomography (CT) scan combines a series of X-ray images taken from different angles around your body and uses computer processing to create cross-sectional images (slices) of the bones, blood vessels and soft tissues inside your body.





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 lodine 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!

