



## CT Abdomen and/or Pelvis

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about Procedure: (319) 398-6050

701 10th Street SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-1292  
319 398-6011

### What is a CT Scan?

CT scanning—sometimes called CAT scanning—is a non-invasive, painless medical test that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions.

CT imaging uses special X-ray equipment to produce multiple images or pictures of the inside of the body and a computer to join them together in cross-sectional views of the area being studied. The images can then be examined on a computer monitor or printed.

CT scans of internal organs, bone, soft tissues and blood vessels provide greater clarity than conventional X-ray exams.

Some CT scans require the injection of a contrast medium (iodine) in a vein. This provides an enhanced image of certain tissues of the body. A CT scan usually takes between 15-30 minutes.

### Preparation:

The various CT scans require little or no preparation. The exact preparation for the scan you are to have should be listed below. Please ask your nurse or call your doctor's office if you have any questions about the preparation.

CT Abdomen/Pelvis for appendicitis or Renal Stone: No preparation.

Abdomen and/or Pelvis: Do not eat anything 4 hours before your scan. Clear liquids are allowed. One hour before your scan you will need to drink a pre-mixed barium solution. The solution is picked up at the Radiology Department at Mercy Medical Center or at the Imaging Center on Council Street, or some physician's offices can provide you the barium at their office 1-2 days before the exam. You may drink the mixture at home or at the hospital if you arrive 1 hour before the exam.

\*If scan is for post endovascular AAA repair, oral contrast is not needed.

There are no special routines after the CT scan. You will be able to eat after the scan unless your doctor has indicated otherwise. The results of the scan will be sent to your doctor.

**NOTE:** If you are having an IV contrast for your CT exam, a lab blood test called serum creatinine is usually required if you are over 50, diabetic, or have high blood pressure. Check with your doctor's nurse. The blood test must be done within one month of the scan. It may be done on the same day of your exam.

**PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:  
A PHOTO ID TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY  
A LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS YOU ARE TAKING**

**Parking/Registration:**

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE. You will be pre-registered, so you can proceed to **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to “Radiology (X-Ray),” also located on Ground (G) level.

**If you are having this procedure at the Mercy Health Plaza Imaging Center:**

The Imaging Center is located in the NE corner of the Plaza next to Galaxy Theatre, at 5264 Council St. NE. Park in front of the building. You will be pre-registered, so you can proceed to the Reception desk.

**Procedure Results (Who interprets the results):**

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the results with you. Please allow your physician time to review these results, usually 2 business days after the exam.

**Your appointment date and time:**

Procedure date: \_\_\_\_\_

Procedure time: \_\_\_\_\_(Please arrive 15 minutes early)