



CT Cervical/Thoracic/Lumbar Spine

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.

Spine without IV Contrast: No preparation.

Spine with IV Contrast: Do not eat anything for 4 hours before the exam. Drink only clear liquids, such as plain jello, tea, fruit drinks without pulp, black coffee, and water. If you are over 50, diabetic or have high blood pressure, a blood test is needed before your scan. (See NOTE)

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 10th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10th Street and 8th 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)