

CT- Cervical/Thoracic/Lumbar Spine

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about Procedure: (319) 398-6050

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 60, diabetic or have high blood pressure, a blood test is needed before your scan. (See Exams That Require Contrast).

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.

Exams That Require Contrast:

If you are having an IV contrast for your CT exam, a lab blood test called Serum Creatinine is usually required if you are older than 60, diabetic or have high blood pressure. The blood test can be done within 30 days prior to the exam or at the time of the 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 next to Wehrenberg Galaxy Theatres within the Mercy Health Plaza, 5264 Council Street NE. You will be pre-registered, so you can proceed to the Reception desk.



Procedure Results:

Please allow 2 business days from your exam for your physician to review your Radiology results.

Your appointment date and time:

Procedure date: _____

Procedure time: _____