

CT- Chest & Abdomen and/or Pelvis

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.

Chest, 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 premixed gastrografin (Crystal Light) 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 gastrografin (Crystal Light) 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 for Aortic Dissection-No oral prep 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.

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: _____