

## Getting Ready for a CT Scan

### Questions, Answers and Preparation Information for Patients



### QUESTIONS:

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Diagnostic Imaging Department

### ON THE DAY OF YOUR APPOINTMENT



Please report to the Diagnostic Imaging Department (x-ray) 15 minutes prior to your appointment time.

**Diagnostic Imaging, Level 0  
Juravinski Innovation Tower  
Charlton Campus**



Don't forget to allow time for parking.



If you have any questions or need to cancel your appointment please call:

905-522-1155  
ext. 35278

## What is a CT Scan?

A CT Scan (Computed Tomography Scan) is a test that uses x-rays to give a cross sectional picture of the area being examined.

## How do I prepare for a CT Scan?

The day of your CT Scan, please:

- Wear a jogging suit or similar clothing
- If you wear clothing with zippers or metal buttons you will need to change into a hospital gown.
- Do not wear jewelry or you will be required to remove it before your CT scan.

You may be asked to sign a consent form to allow for an injection of X-ray dye. X-ray dye is a fluid that is injected into a vein in your arm and it gives better detail to the area of your body that is being examined. X-ray dye may be used for any area that needs to be examined. Our Radiologist (x-ray doctor) will decide if you need an injection of x-ray dye for your test.



## What happens during the scan

For your test, you will lie down on the CT table. The table will move slowly through the CT ring and the x-rays are taken as the table moves. A computer will make the pictures. You may be asked to hold your breath during the CT scan otherwise you will only need to lie still. If you have allergies or claustrophobia, tell the Technologist before your test.

If you are allergic to x-ray dye, please call 905-522-1155 extension 35278 to discuss this.

## Please follow the instructions below for the body part being examined:

### Brain, Face, Sinuses and Inner Ear

Please be prepared to stay in the CT department for one hour. The actual time on the scan table will be 10 minutes. Please avoid wearing earrings, necklaces or hair pins.

### Neck and Chest

Please be prepared to stay in the CT department for one hour. The actual time on the scan table will be 10 minutes. Please avoid wearing earrings, necklaces or hair pins.

### Spine and Extremities

Please be prepared to stay in the CT department for one hour. The actual time on the scan table will be 10 minutes. There is no preparation needed.

## Abdomen and Pelvis

**Do NOT** eat or drink 4 hours before your CT scan. If you are diabetic you may eat and drink as normal. When you arrive to the CT department you will be given 2 cups of flavoured liquid to drink. Please be prepared to stay in the CT department for 1-1½ hours. The actual time on the scan table will be 10 minutes.

## Is there anything else I should know?

If you take medication, continue to take your medication with water.

If you are diabetic, you do not need to stop eating 4 hours before your test.

Your CT scan appointment may be delayed if there are Emergency patients that require a CT scan urgently.

## What happens after the CT Scan?

Your doctor will receive a report in one week following the test. You may contact your doctor to discuss your results at that time.

If you have had an injection of x-ray dye, drink 8 glasses of water over the next two days to eliminate the x-ray dye from your system. The x-ray dye will pass through your kidneys and into your urine. Your urine will not be different in colour.