



### **What is a CT Scan?**

Computed Tomography (CT) scans use X-rays to create images of the inside of your body. CT Scanning combines the use of a digital two-dimensional computer together with a rotating X-ray device to create detailed cross sectional images or “slices” of different organs and body parts. The two-dimensional images can also be reconstructed to produce three-dimensional images. CT is fast and patient friendly; with the unique ability to image a combination of soft tissue, bone and blood vessels. Depending on which CT Scan your healthcare provider orders, your actual CT exam can take from 30 seconds minutes to 45 minutes to perform. The technologist can tell you how long your entire appointment will take.

### **Why a CT Scan is Ordered?**

A CT Scan may be performed to obtain a detailed picture of the inside of any part of the body, without the need for a surgical exploration. Healthcare providers looking for answers often turn to the “Answer Box” – CT Scanning used often for abdominal disorders and body and chest imaging. A CT Scan can be used to find the cause or source of various illnesses or diseases. CT systems at PENRAD Imaging also include a 64 Row and a 128 Dual Source scanner. The 128 Dual Source CT is excellent for Cardiac CT Angiography as well as other Angiography exams. Angiography exams utilizing CT are less invasive than a surgical procedure and much less expensive.

***If You Have Questions/Concerns, Please Call PENRAD Imaging at (719) 785-9001***



### **Potential Sites of CT Scan**

Abdomen and pelvis: liver, pancreas, kidney, spleen, adrenals, stomach, intestines, blood vessels, lymph nodes, other abdominal vessels and bones

Brain: vessels of the brain, eyes, inner ear, sinuses, pituitary gland

Neck: shoulders, blood vessels of the neck

Chest: heart, aorta, lungs, mediastinum, pulmonary embolism

Pelvis: hips, male & female reproductive system, bladder, GI tract

Skeletal system: including bones of the hands, feet, ankles, legs, arms, jaw

Spine: lumbar, thoracic, cervical

### **Preparing for your CT Scan**

Your healthcare provider and our scheduling department will give you preparation instructions. Depending on what study has been ordered, your exam may involve a contrast agent. If so, your instructions may require you to fast for several hours prior to your CT Scan. Patients with certain conditions may be required to obtain blood work prior to their CT exam. You should plan on taking your regular medications, although diabetic patients may need to discuss insulin doses with their healthcare provider. When your test requires a contrast agent, the technologist usually injects the agent into your arm with a small needle.

If prior tests have resulted in an allergic reaction to iodine contrast, please advise the technologist. In addition, let the technologist and/or radiologist know if you are, or suspect you might be, pregnant. Information about your medical history e.g. asthma, kidney trouble, is important for the technologist to know.

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### **During the Exam**

After you put on a gown, the technologist will ask you to lie on the exam table, usually on your back. The scanner looks like a large doughnut. The technologist will raise, lower and move the exam table in and out of the scanner opening in order to take pictures of the body, although it does not touch the patient. It is extremely important that you remain still during the CT Scan so the pictures are clear. The technologist will talk to you via an intercom located inside the scanner. You will also hear various whirring, clicking and other mechanical noises during the procedure. The technologist will check your CT Scan for clarity before you leave.

### **After the Exam**

A Board Certified Radiologist will interpret your CT Scan and provide a formal report as your permanent record. The formal exam results will be sent to your referring healthcare provider, who will in turn discuss the results with you. At this time, your healthcare provider may recommend further testing, or suggest a treatment plan for your condition.

Most patients resume normal diet and activities immediately after the exam. If your CT Scan requires a contrast agent, your system naturally eliminates the agent from your body. Oral contrast agents may cause diarrhea.

Feel free to call our facility or check with your healthcare provider for additional information.

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