

What is Computerized Tomography (CT)?

Computerized Tomography (CT) is a fast, painless diagnostic tool doctors use to see inside the body. CT is sometimes referred to as a CAT scan. Physicians use the information they obtain from a CT scan to rule out or confirm the presence of certain abnormalities or diseases. If doctors do see anything on your scan, the information can be extremely vital to determining the proper treatment options.

A CT scanner combines X-rays with advanced computer processing technology to create accurate, detailed images of your internal structures and organs.

CT exams are quick and comfortable. You will be asked to lie still on a table as it gently moves you through the scanner. In most cases, you will be asked several questions before your CT scan. Be sure to inform your physician or the technologist if you have any allergies or if you believe you are pregnant.

This is contraindicated for pregnant patients.

How do I prepare for my exam?

The following CT exams **do not require any preparation** before exam:

You may eat or drink before these exams.

1. CT Cervical Spine
2. CT Thoracic Spine
3. CT Lumbar Spine
4. CT Bony Pelvis
5. CT Chest High Resolution
6. CT Kidney Stone Protocol (CT Abdomen / Pelvis)
7. CT Head Without
8. CT Facial / Orbits for Fracture
9. CT Sinus (includes pre-op VTI scans)
10. CT Mastoids / Inner Ear/ Temporal Bones
11. CT Extremities

The following CT exams **requires slight preparation** before exam:

You may **not** eat for 2 hours prior to exam, you **can** drink water if needed.

1. CT Facial / Orbits for Mass
2. CT Soft Tissue Neck
3. CT Head (with or without contrast)
4. CT PE
5. CT Angio. Head
6. CT Angio. Neck (Carotids)
7. CT Angio. Chest
8. CT Angio. Abd / Pel
9. CT Angio. Extremities
10. Appendix Protocol (Abdomen / Pelvic CT, Rectal (Contrast))

The following CT exam **requires preparation** before the exam:

You may **not** eat or drink for 6 hours before exam.

1. CT Guided Biopsy
 - Blood work is required 2 days prior to exam
 - Please arrive 1 hour prior to procedure

The following CT exam with IV contrast **requires 12 hours of preparation before exam:**

1. CT Abdomen & Pelvis (with oral and IV and with oral only)
 - Please pick up oral preparation the day before the exam in NOCH's Medical Imaging Department