

**Central Ohio Primary Care
Radiology Department**

ABDOMEN/PELVIC CT



What is a CT Scan?

A CT Scan (also known as a “CAT Scan” for “Computed Axial Tomography”) is a diagnostic test that combines the use of X-Rays with computer technology. A series of X-Ray beams from many different angles are used to create cross-sectional images of the body. These images are assembled into a three dimensional picture that can display organs, bones and tissues in great detail.

How should I prepare for the procedure?

- **Abdomen/Pelvic:**

Nothing to eat or drink 4 hours before the exam. We will schedule you to arrive 90 minutes before your study (you may want to bring something to read) so that you will have time to prepare for the exam. During this time you will be drinking oral contrast (dilute barium). Contrast is a liquid that improves the visibility of structures within the body.

If you are diabetic and take insulin or another medicine for diabetes, please check with your doctor to see if your medicine will have to be adjusted while you are not eating.

If you take Glucophage or Glucovance for diabetes, please be sure to tell the person doing your exam. You should not take this medication following your exam. You will be given special instructions about your medication.

If you have a history of severe allergies or asthma, please inform the technologist or staff person when scheduling this exam.

Any woman who is pregnant should inform her doctor before scheduling this examination.

If you need regular medications on the morning of the test, take them with water.

How is the procedure performed?

The CT scanner consists of a large donut shaped machine and x-ray table. You will lie on the table and be slowly moved into the large opening as a series of pictures are taken. You may be given an injection of IV dye (contrast), which improves the visibility of structures within the body. We ask that you lie very still and follow the instructions of the technologist while the scan is being performed. The exam will take 30 minutes from the time you lie on the CT table.

What are my instructions after the exam?

You may eat as soon as the exam is over. Drink plenty of fluids to avoid constipation from the barium and to flush the IV contrast out of your system.

When do I get the results?

Once the examination is completed, the CT images will be studied by the radiologist and compared to any previous x-rays of the same area you may have had taken previously. Please allow a few days for your physician to follow up with you regarding the results of your test.

What do I do if I have further questions?

In case you experience an emergency following the examination call 911. If you have any other questions before or after your appointment, please feel free to call our radiology department at 614-273-0411 option 5 or toll free at 1-877-273-0450.