IMAGING: CT SCANS

CT scans allow the radiologist to take pictures of different levels, or slices of the body. The technologist is always able to hear and see the patient during the procedure.

What to expect

Before the exam:
This exam may include injecting an iodine substance in the vein. Diabetic patients and those with allergies must inform the radiology staff and may need clearance from their doctor before the exam. Blood tests may also be required prior to the administration of contrast materials. Patients whose exam includes an injection may not eat or drink anything four hours before the test. During the injection, the patient may experience a warm sensation throughout the body and a metal taste in the mouth. This is normal.

Abdomen, Chest, and Pelvis CT

This scan allows the radiologist to take pictures of different levels, or slices, of the body using a rotating X-ray beam. The radiologist is able to view each slice to check for injuries or abnormalities, organ size and shape.

During the exam:
For short periods of time, the body may be covered by the scanner, but the scanner is open at the back and the front, allowing the patient to see out. It is a 30 minute procedure.

After the exam:
The patient must drink plenty of fluids for 24 to 48 hours.

Brain CT

This cross-sectional imaging technology allow the radiologist to look at different levels of your brain. The radiologist is able to view each slice to assess your brain for injury or abnormality including bleeding, tumors, blood clots or signs or stroke.

During the exam:
The patient lies flat on his/her back with the arms positioned at the sides. The head will be placed in a holder and needs to remain very still. Only the head is covered by the scanner. There is an opening at the back and the front, which allows the patient to see out. The procedure usually takes 15-30 minutes.

Lumbar Spine CT

This cross-sectional imaging technology allows the radiologist to look at different levels or slices of the lower back using a rotating X-ray beam. The radiologist is able to view each slice to assess for injuries, including ruptured disks and other bony abnormalities.

(Continued on reverse)
During the exam:
For the exam, patients lie on their backs with arms positioned above the head. A portion of the body is covered by the scanner, but the scanner is open at the back and the front, allowing the patient to see out. It is a 15 to 30 minute exam.

### Neck/Cervical Spine CT

This cross-sectional imaging scan allows the radiologist to assess the spine for injury and other bony abnormalities using a rotating X-ray beam.

During the exam:
The patient lies on an exam table with arms positioned at the sides. Only a portion of the head is covered by the scanner as it takes pictures. It is a 15 to 30 minute exam.

### Pelvis/Hip Bones CT

This cross-sectional imaging technique allows the radiologist to look at different levels, or slices, of the spine in the pelvis and hip areas using a rotating X-ray beam. The radiologist is able to look at each slice to check the pelvis for tumors, injuries and bony abnormalities.

During the exam:
The patients lie on their backs with arms positioned on the chest or above the head. A portion of the body is covered by the scanner, but the scanner is open at the back and front, allowing the patient to see out. It is a 15 to 30 minute procedure.

### Sinus CT

This cross-sectional imaging technology allows the radiologist to look at different levels, or slices of the skull bones and sinus cavities using a rotating X-ray beam. The radiologist is able to see each slice to check for injury, infection, fluid levels and abnormalities.

During the exam:
This procedure is done in two positions. For both, the head is positioned in a holder, and the patient is asked to hold very still. For the first position, patients lie on their backs with the arms at the sides. For the second position, the patient lies on the stomach with the head resting on the chin. Only the head is covered by the scanner, and the scanner is open at the back and the front, allowing the patient to see out. It is a 15-minute procedure.

### Thoracic Spine CT

This cross-sectional imaging technology allows the radiologist to look at different levels, or slices, of the middle portion of the back using a rotating X-ray beam. The radiologist views each slice to check for injuries and bony abnormalities.

During the exam:
Patients lie on their backs with the arms positioned above the head for the procedure. A portion of the body is covered by the scanner, and the scanner is open at the back and the front, allowing the patient to see out. The technologist is always able to see and hear the patient during the 30-minute procedure.