

What if I am pregnant?

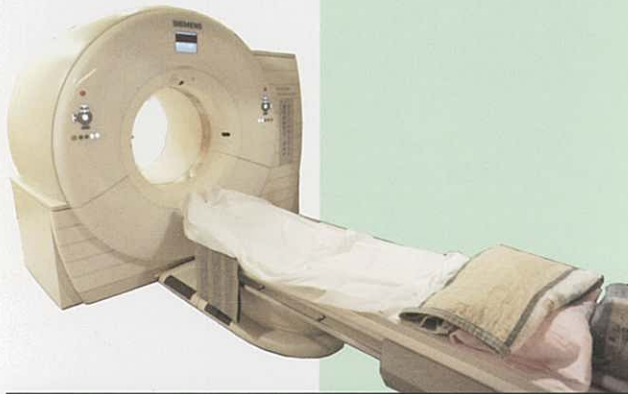
Tell your doctor or duty radiographer if you think you may be pregnant as the CT scanner uses x-rays which might cause radiation hazard to fetus.

What if I am breast-feeding?

Breast-feeding after the injection of iodinated contrast medium is safe as only 0.5% of the maternal dose is excreted into breast milk. Concerned mothers may discard breast milk for 24 hours after injection to eliminate fetal exposure to contrast medium.

How will I find out the CT examination results?

After patient finished the CT scan, radiologist will interpret your CT scan and issue an imaging report to your doctor who will then explain the findings and diagnosis to you.



Somatom Definition Flash

Do I need contrast agent for the CT examination?

According to the examination requested by your doctor and the clinical indication, some patients will be given an intravenous injection of contrast medium (X-ray dye) to enhance the diagnosis. Oral and /or rectal contrast (usually water) may be given, depending on the area to be scanned. This usually helps to outline the GI tract



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Computed Tomography (CT)

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What is Computed Tomography (CT)?

CT scan is a specialized X-ray examination which provides cross-sectional information of the human body after high-technology computer manipulation.

Our department has installed the most advanced CT scanners - 128-slice dual source multi-detector model which enhances diagnosis through 3-dimensional data acquisition.

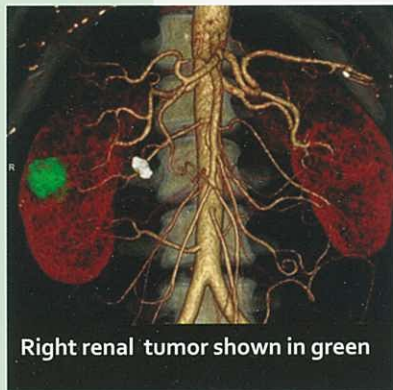
Also CT scans can be used to guide percutaneous biopsies and other minimally invasive procedures.

Procedures

Before your examination begins, our nurse will ask you for relevant medical history, explain the examination procedure and assist you into the CT room.

You will be asked to lie still on the scanner table during the time of examination in order to produce the clearest images.

For the studies of thorax, abdomen or pelvis, patient will be asked to hold the breath for a few seconds during examination.



Preparation

Please bring reports and films of previous imaging studies such as CT, MRI, PET or Ultrasound scan for the radiologist to compare directly to your present CT scan.

You may continue to take your usual medications prescribed by your doctor. (except Metformin for diabetic patient)

You may be asked to change into a gown and your belongings should be stored in the provided locker.

You may be asked to take off your glasses, hearing aids, dentures, accessories, bra and all metallic items depending on which body part is being scanned.

Preparation for different CT examinations:

- 1) CT Thorax, Abdomen and/or Pelvis: No food for 4 hours prior to scan, but medications and plain water is allowed.
- 2) CT Coronary Angiogram: No coffee, tea, coke and chocolate for at least 12 hours before examination. Allow 1-2 hours for examination.
- 3) CT Colonoscopy: Light and low-fibre lunch on the day before the examination. Laxative may be required to cleanse the bowel. A separated preparation sheet will be provided.

Information to patient concerning intravenous contrast media

If you are given contrast medium intravenously, you may notice a metallic taste in your mouth and a warm sensation throughout your body. These sensations are normal and will subside within a few moments.

Some patients may have an allergic reaction to the contrast medium, which is iodine-based. Patients who are allergic to the contrast medium may experience itching, sneezing or other allergic symptoms. Anyone experiencing such a reaction will be treated before being released home.

In rare cases, the contrast medium may trigger anaphylaxis, a life-threatening allergic reaction in which the tissues of the airway become swollen and restrict breathing. In such cases, emergency treatment will be given immediately.

If you have asthma or history of allergy to contrast / medication / any food or substance, please inform your doctor and our staff before examination, you may be required to take steroid prior to the examination.

For patients who are diabetic or having disease affecting renal or liver function, they are required to have the Creatinine level checked within one month before the examination. If creatinine level is abnormal, re-test 2 weeks before CT scan is preferable.

For patients who are taking Metformin, we suggest patient not to take Metformin on the day of radiological investigation. Patients with normal renal function can resume Metformin 2 days (48 hours) after contrast administration. Patients with impaired renal function should withhold Metformin and go back to your doctor for reassessment of renal function before resumption of the drug as advised. For any query, please contact our staff.