CT - chest

What is a CT scan?

Computed Tomography (CT) is a fast, effective and accurate way of using x-rays to take pictures in very fine slices through the part of the body that the doctor has asked to be investigated.

CT scanners can produce multiple slices of the body in one single rotation and the CT computer is able to stack these slices together to create images in multiple planes. With all of these different slices and 3D reconstructions, the radiologist will have a very detailed picture of the structures making up your body. This will help them to make a diagnosis so that the right treatment can be planned as soon as possible.

What preparation is required?

CT examinations of the chest often require an iodinated contrast injection. Therefore, patients are required to **fast for two hours** prior to the examination. You can take medications with water during this period as necessary.

Patients who have poor kidney function (renal impairment) or are taking Metformin for diabetes must have had a recent blood test, the results of which will help the radiologist to determine if x-ray contrast can be given. If you have any queries regarding this please contact using the number below.

What is involved?

Common pathologies requiring CT chest imaging include infection, lung cancer, suspected pulmonary fibrosis, solitary pulmonary nodules, bronchiectasis and diffuse lung disease. The radiographer will position you on the CT table and the table will move in and out of the CT scanner and a series of pictures will be performed. Intravenous contrast will be given at this point, if required. It is very important that you lie still for this test and hold your breath when requested. Any movement can blur the images and the test may need to be repeated.

What is an iodinated contrast injection?

The administration of an iodinated contrast injection during a CT scan can give significantly more information by highlighting blood vessels. This helps the radiologist provide a more comprehensive diagnosis.

If contrast is required for your test you will be asked to complete a questionnaire to assess your suitability. The contrast will only be given once your consent has been obtained and information will be provided detailing the benefits and risks.

The contrast is injected through a small cannula (plastic tube) inserted into a vein in your arm. This cannula remains in position for 10 minutes after your test has been completed.

Are there any side effects?

If you have an injection of iodinated contrast, you may experience a sensation of warmth and a strange taste. These usually go away within a few minutes. In rare cases, some people may be allergic to the iodinated contrast.

If you have any concerns, please contact the department and speak with one of our staff.

How long will my scan take?

Depending on the scans required it takes 5 - 10 minutes.

How do I get my results?

Digital images are immediately available to your doctor and your records will be kept permanently. This occurs through a system called PACS. **If a priority report is requested it will be issued within two hours and faxed or emailed to your doctor, however this can sometimes take up to 24 hours.**

If your referring doctor wants to see you on the day of your examination, please advise the reception staff when you arrive for your appointment, so the appropriate information can be made available for you to take to your doctor.

How much will this cost?

Please discuss this with the receptionist in Cabrini Medical Imaging at the time of booking your procedure.

Important

It is important to let us know when you make your booking if you are or think you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

It is important to bring with you your referral, previous x-rays and any other tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or I-MED).

Questions

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the number below.

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