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## **What is CAT Scan?**

CAT Scan, Computerized Axial Tomography, is a medical imaging method used by physicians to look inside the human body. CAT scan is also referred to as CT. The CAT scanner uses x-rays and a computer to produce cross-sectional images of your body. The scanner emits a pencil-thin beam of x-rays at the body from many angles. Detectors measure the x-rays that pass through and send the measurements to a computer. The computer then uses the measurements to create images (pictures) of your body.

Depending on the test your physician has ordered, CAT scan is used to obtain pictures of your head, lungs, arteries, heart, abdomen, pelvis, joints and bones.

## **What should I expect?**

Your CAT scan procedure itself will last anywhere from 17 seconds to 5 minutes depending on the study requested by your physician. With the preparation from beginning to the end of the test should take no longer than 30 minutes. For some of the cardiac tests please be advised that it can take up to 1.5 hours before some patients are ready. You will meet your Imaging CT Technologist prior to your study. This technologist has completed a rigorous course of education and training, and works under the close supervision of the cardiologist and radiologist to assure the most accurate results from your examination. Before the start of your CAT scan, the technologist will explain the procedure to you. The technologist will assist you on to the scanning table. You will lie on your back on the scanner tabletop and depending on the procedure you may be asked to raise your arms over your head. The tabletop slides slowly through a doughnut hole in the scanner. You may be asked to hold your breath for short periods of time. The CT technologist will be out of the room but will maintain contact with you both visually and verbally through an intercom system.

Some CAT Scans patients may be asked to take a special contrast agent, either orally or intravenously. CT contrast is used to make specific organs, blood vessels and/or tissue "standout" with more image contrast to better show the presence of disease or injury.

## **How do I prepare?**

You should wear comfortable loose fitting two-piece clothing for your exam. Your preparation for a CAT Scan involves removing any metallic clothing or jewelry that might degrade the CT images, such as belts, earrings, bras, glasses, dentures, hairpins, etc. You may be asked to change into a gown if snaps or zippers will interfere with your scan.

Should your scan require a contrast agent the instructions for preparation are as follows:

You should have nothing to eat 4 hours prior to your procedure. You should also have no caffeine 24 hours prior to your procedure. DO NOT smoke for 24 hours prior to your procedure.

You will also need lab work done within 30 days before your appointment to check your kidney functions. Please contact us if you need a lab order to have this completed.

Diabetics should bring a small lunch or snack.

Please notify staff if you have and allergy to contrast dye or iodine, as you will need special preparation the day before your procedure.

You will be notified if you require additional pre/post procedure monitoring or hydration. This usually applies for those who have elevated kidney levels.

It is important that you bring your insurance information with you.

## **When will I get the results of my CAT Scan?**

When the scan is finished your study will be reviewed by the radiologist. The technologist is not able to discuss the results with you. Your physician will have the results of your study within 48 hours, and a report will be generated within the week.

## **Patient Safety Guidelines:**

CAT Scan is not generally recommended for pregnant patients, especially during the first trimester. If you are pregnant, or think you may be, please notify your physician. **If you take Glucophage, Glucovance, Metaglip, Avandamet, Riomet, Fortamet, Metformin, Actomet, Actos or other oral diabetes treatment inform Able CT Technologists when you schedule your appointment.**

**All procedures will be performed at the East Beltline Imaging Center located at 743 East Beltline Avenue.**

**If you have any further questions, please feel free to call us @ (616) 301-7500 or toll free @ (866) 200-5556. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you!!!**