

# CT Angiogram (Computed Tomography)



## How to Prepare for a CT Angiogram?

- Do not eat or drink 3 hours before test.
- Must check in 1 hour before test.

Sometimes blood work is required before we can do your scan; this is done to provide us with your kidney function before we inject you with contrast media.



## What is a CT Angiogram?

A CT scan is also known as computed tomography or CAT scan. CT scans are used to look inside the body. A CT scan is a type of x-ray that creates pictures of your internal organs in more detail than a regular x-ray.

CT angiography, done in the Diagnostic Imaging Department, is a diagnostic procedure performed by the CT Technologist. The procedure involves the use of intravenous (IV) contrast media to look at the blood system in specific areas of your body as requested by your doctor. The contrast media is given through a vein in your arm by using an IV and CT power injector (the power injector automatically gives you the correct amount of contrast for your test). The main ingredient in the contrast media is iodine. Because iodine is a dense natural material it is ideal for CT angiography as x-rays do not pass through it very well. It will look white on the CT image.

## What will happen during the CT scan?

You may be asked to wear a hospital gown. Remove any metal objects, such as jewelry that might interfere with the machine.

An informed consent must be signed by the patient or family member prior to the injection of IV contrast media. At this time any questions or concerns can be addressed with the technologist/nurse obtaining the consent.

You will lie on a narrow table during the exam. The table slides through the round opening of the machine. Images will be taken of the body part being scanned while the IV contrast is being injected.

The IV contrast is injected quickly so you might experience the following:

1. A warm or hot sensation rushing through your body (this is normal)
2. A metallic or antiseptic taste in your mouth
3. A sensation that you're either voiding or having a bowel movement (this is a sensation only)

The CT scanner is not noisy like a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner. During the scan the technologist is in a shielded room to operate the CT scanner. The technologist will be able to see and hear you at all times and talk to you through the intercom.

Your test takes about five (5) minutes from start to finish once you are on the CT scanner bed.

## What will happen after the CT scan?

The contrast media makes your kidneys work a bit harder, so after your scan you should drink plenty of fluids for the next 24 to 48 hrs. This helps flush out the contrast media through the kidneys.

The radiologist will send the CT Angiogram report to your physician. The results will be given to you by your physician.