

### **What is a Computerized Tomogram (CT)?**

A CT is a special x-ray procedure, and is often called a CT “scan”. CT Involves using an x-ray tube with special detectors that collect the x-ray information produced. A computer converts the information gathered into cross-sectional images or “slices” of your body that are then viewed on a computer monitor. Since the images are created by a computer, they can be manipulated or changed to show specific areas of interest more clearly.

### **What special instructions do I need to follow to be ready for my examination?**

You may continue to take your routine medications and drink fluids, even if you are requested to avoid food for 4 hours before the procedure. Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Jewellery, hairpins and metal belt buckles should be avoided. Please do not use perfume or other scented products on the day of your study.

If you need to cancel your appointment for any reason, please give as much notice as possible. If there is a possibility that you are pregnant, please notify your Health Care Provider as the procedure may have to be postponed or cancelled. Be prepared for delays -- emergency cases may result in your appointment running late.

### **Contrast Media**

For an abdominal scan, you may be required to drink oral contrast (a clear liquid) before your scan.

Sometimes, a CT scan requires the injection of intravascular contrast media into your vein to improve details in specific areas of your body. Intravascular contrast media is solution containing iodine. Because it shows up white on x-ray images, it is sometimes referred to as “x-ray dye”.

If you receive intravascular contrast media, you may experience a warm feeling throughout your body as it is injected. These sensations are temporary and considered normal. While there are no negative effects for the majority of patients, as with other medications and food, there is a small possibility that you could be allergic. Most allergic reactions are mild and consist of itching and hives. If a more severe reaction were to occur, treatment would be initiated immediately by the Radiologist and other hospital staff.

### **Who will be performing my examination?**

An x-ray technologist with special training in CT scanning will perform the procedure under the supervision of a Radiologist.

### **What will happen to me during my examination?**

When it is time for your scan, the CT technologist will explain the procedure, discuss relevant clinical history and obtain your consent. If you will be receiving intravascular contrast media, an intravenous lock (arm vein IV access) will be inserted.

The technologist will take you into the CT scan room and position you on the examination table. This table will then move the part of your body being imaged into the scanner “gantry” (donut), the machine will not touch or hurt you. This “gantry” is about 2 ft in depth, and you will be able to see around you. The technologist will be controlling your scan from the adjacent room where you can be well seen and heard at all times.

## Patient Information Sheet CT SCAN

You may hear a whirring sound during your scan. This is normal. It is important that you follow the technologist's instructions and that you remain quiet and still during the exam to prevent "blurry" images.

The whole procedure can take about ½ hour, with the actual time in the CT scan room being about 10 minutes.

### **Should I expect any after effects as a result of my examination?**

If you had an injection of intravascular contrast media, you will be given post-procedure instructions.

### **When will I know the results?**

Your Health Care Provider will usually have a written report from the Radiologist within one week of your examination. You should obtain the results from your own Health Care Provider.

If you have any other questions or concerns that have not been answered here, please feel free to ask the Diagnostic Imaging staff involved during your examination.