

CONTRAST (X-RAY DYE)

Contrast, or x-ray dye, is a substance we introduce into your body to highlight internal organs, tissues, and blood vessels so that they are easier to observe in CT images.

Usually, contrast is **not** necessary for CT scans of the spine, sinuses, and bone structures, or for dentascans.

Other scans require contrast that may be given intravenously (by a tube put into your vein) or orally (by mouth). The intravenous contrast material is an iodine-based substance. The oral contrast is barium-based.

Before any intravenous contrast is given, our technologist will review your medical history. Please let us know if you have high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, asthma, kidney disease, claustrophobia (fear of enclosed or small spaces), or a previous allergic reaction to iodine contrast. Also, if you are pregnant or think you might be, please tell the technologist.

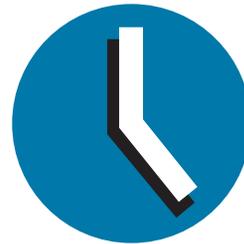
The intravenous contrast will be injected into a vein in your arm or hand before the scanning begins. During the injection, you may feel warm and flushed, and may have a metallic taste in your mouth. This is a normal reaction to contrast. These symptoms usually pass within 10 minutes. Later the contrast will be eliminated naturally through your urine.

Note to diabetic patients: *If you receive an intravenous injection of contrast and you take Metformin (Glucophage® or Glucovance®) therapy, please:*

- *stop taking the Metformin (Glucophage® or Glucovance®) for 48 hours after the CT scan;*
- *and talk with your primary care physician before you begin taking it again.*

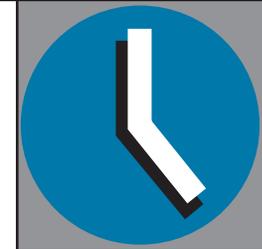
FOLLOW-UP

A radiologist will review your CT Scan images and report the results to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the results with you at your next appointment.



To schedule
your appointment
— or if you must cancel —
please call
610-988-8693

**If you have any questions about
CT scanning, please ask.**



*y*ou are scheduled for a
CT SCAN

date: _____ *time:* _____

study: _____

history/diagnosis: _____

ICD9: _____

authorization number: _____

physician: _____

- at
- The Reading Hospital CT/Ultrasound Center (D-Building, 1st Floor)*
 - TRH Imaging Center at Mublenberg*
 - TRH Imaging Center at Spring Ridge*

Please bring with you: your health plan ID card; authorization number or referral form; this brochure!



**The Reading Hospital
and Medical Center**
PO Box 16052
Reading, PA 19612-6052



**The Reading Hospital
and Medical Center**

Your doctor has ordered a special type of diagnostic study called a computed tomography scan, better known as a CT scan.

This brochure explains the procedure so you will know what to expect on the day of your study.

ABOUT CT SCANS

A CT scan is a type of x-ray that uses a computer to show images of your body. This study is very good for showing body structures and organs. The pictures are taken in “slices.” Each slice shows only a few layers of body tissue at one time. This study is fast, simple, and patient-friendly. A radiologist (a doctor who is an expert in reading x-rays) will interpret the pictures.

A note to inpatients: If you are having this study done on an inpatient basis, your nurse will guide you through any preparations and will arrange for your transportation to and from the CT Department.

PREPARATION

Please look here for the type of scan you will be having. Follow the preparation steps noted:

- *CT of the brain, orbits, pituitary, neck, or chest:*
 - do not eat or drink anything for 4 hours before your appointment;
 - take all scheduled doses of medication.
- *CT of the abdomen:*
 - 2 to 3 days before your appointment, pick up your supply of *Readi-Cat* at the Hospital, or at any one of our imaging centers;
 - do not eat or drink anything — except *Readi-Cat*—for 4 hours before your appointment;
 - 90 minutes before your appointment, please drink one bottle of *Readi-Cat*;
 - take all scheduled doses of medication.

- *CT of the pelvis or abdomen and pelvis:*
 - 2 to 3 days before your appointment, pick up two bottles of *Readi-Cat* at the Hospital, or at any one of our imaging centers;
 - do not eat or drink anything — except *Readi-Cat*—for 4 hours before your appointment;
 - 3 hours before your appointment, drink one bottle of *Readi-Cat*;
 - 90 minutes before your appointment, drink *half* of the second bottle of *Readi-Cat*; bring the other half of the bottle with you to your appointment;
 - take all scheduled doses of medication.
- *CT Urography:*
 - do not eat or drink anything for 4 hours before your appointment;
 - take all scheduled doses of medication.
- *CT Arteriogram:*
 - do not eat or drink anything for 4 hours before your appointment;
 - take all scheduled doses of medication.

- *CT of the sinuses, spine, bone structure, abdomen or pelvis for kidney stones only, and dentascans:*
 - there is no preparation at all;
 - take all scheduled doses of medication.

A note to inpatients: Your nurse will tell you the exact food and drink restrictions that you should follow.

PROCEDURES

Upon your arrival at the CT Department, you will be taken to a dressing room, and asked to change into the exam gown provided. You will also be asked to remove any metal you are wearing in the area to be scanned.

When you are ready, our technologist will take you to the CT Scan Room.

The technologist will explain the procedure and answer your questions. You will be assisted onto the scan table and positioned for your study. Once the procedure begins, you will be asked to lie perfectly still. During the scan, a series of pictures are taken as the table moves slowly. A clicking or whirring noise will be heard. During the study, you will be alone in the scan room. A technologist will be able to hear you and speak to you. Most studies take 10 to 20 minutes to complete.