



St. Luke's Imaging Services Patient/Family Information

CT Scan

What is a CT scan?

A CT – *computed tomography* – or CAT scan is a valuable procedure which combines x-ray and computer technology to make a clear picture of the organs, bones and tissues inside your body.

The CT exam involves tiny x-ray pictures, called "slices," taken in a circular movement around the body. The computer pulls the slices together and puts them on a video monitor for a radiologist – a doctor who specializes in radiologic medicine. The image represents a cross-section of the particular area and can provide a "view" that may not be visible on a regular x-ray.

Special Note

Before the exam, please tell your doctor if you are or think you may be pregnant or are nursing.

Preparation

If x-ray dye will be used for your exam, you should not eat any solid food four (4) hours before your exam. You may, however, drink clear liquids, including water, tea, clear gelatin, lemon-lime soda, orange or grape punch (not juice) and broth. Your doctor may also have other instructions for you. If you are on any medications, take them prior to your test with a small sip of water. If you are 60 or older, have diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney disease or have undergone an exam within the previous seven days where contrast material (x-ray dye) was injected into your body, you will need to have a blood test before this procedure to check for kidney function.

Please bring your medication list with you to your exam.

It is important to not wear any metal objects, such as hair pins or earrings, on your head.

What Happens During the Test?

You may be asked to wear a hospital gown depending on the area being scanned. You will be positioned on an exam table and it is very important to remain completely still during the scan. The table will be moved into the machine where the scans will be done. Except for the movement of the table, you will not feel anything.

When Will I Know the Results?

The radiologist will review and interpret the scan shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss these results with you.

Please allow your physician the time needed to review these results.

Outpatient Instructions

Please register 30 minutes before your schedule exam time at the Outpatient Registration desk at the West Entrance. After registering, testing will be done in the Imaging Services department on the second floor. Please use the elevators past registration on the left.

Name _____

Exam date/time _____