

UnityPoint Health - Finley Hospital Radiology Patient/Family Information
CT Scan

What is 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 or have a history of multiple myeloma.

Preparation

If you are on any medications, it is fine to take them prior to your test. Please bring your medication list with you to your exam.

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

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.

Name: _____

Exam Date/Time: _____