

What is a Computerized Tomography (CT) Scan

A Computerized Tomography (CT) scan uses x-rays to take pictures of inside the body which provide more detail than traditional x-rays. For the CT, you will be asked to lay flat on the table which will rise up and move as you are passed through a large circular machine. Some scans do require you to hold your breath for a short time to lessen movement. You may also be asked to drink contrast or receive it through an IV to improve the pictures of your organs. Depending on the type of CT ordered, the scan may take between 15 to 60 minutes to complete.

Preparing for Your CT Scan

You may be asked to change into pants/gown/robe. You may also need to remove any metal including jewelry & piercings. A locker is provided to store your belongings during the exam. You will need to complete a pre-screening questionnaire if you are having IV contrast for your test. Depending on what type of scan you are having, you may need to fast (not eat or drink) for four hours before your scan.

We ask that you arrive at least 15 minutes before your CT scan, unless told otherwise. If you arrive past your appointment time, we will do our best to help you, and you may be asked to reschedule or wait until our next available appointment opens. We appreciate your attention to this in efforts to help us serve you better.

Lab Work

If your CT requires IV contrast dye, you may need blood work done before your test if you have not had any within 30 days. Your provider may order blood work (creatinine/GFR) to be done before the scan to evaluate your kidney function and make sure it is safe to give IV contrast.

Types of CT Scans

Head, Face and/or Neck:

If you are having a CT scan of the head and neck, you usually will not need to change out of your clothes as long as all metal is removed and out of the scan area. We ask that you remove any necklaces and piercings and wear clothing with no metal in those areas.

Chest, Abdomen, and/or Pelvis:

You may need to fast for four hours before your scan. You may be asked to change into a gown and robe to ensure all metal is removed (zippers, buttons, underwire bras, etc.) and allow easy access for IV starts, if Needed. Wearing loose, comfortable clothing with no metal may also be acceptable.

What to Expect

Some CT scans require you to drink water or oral contrast:

Water: You may be asked to arrive 30 minutes early to drink water before your scan to hydrate your system and allow a better view of your organs.

Oral Contrast: You may be asked to arrive 1 hour early to drink oral contrast before your scan to help highlight your hollow organs such as your stomach and intestines.

CT scans with Intravenous (IV) contrast:

Intravenous (IV) contrast is used to highlight the blood vessels and organs in your body. This is given during the scan through an IV that is started in your arm. While getting the contrast many people get a metallic taste in their mouth and a warm feeling throughout their body. This goes away as soon as the contrast is finished. If you have an allergy to CT IV contrast, premedication may be required.

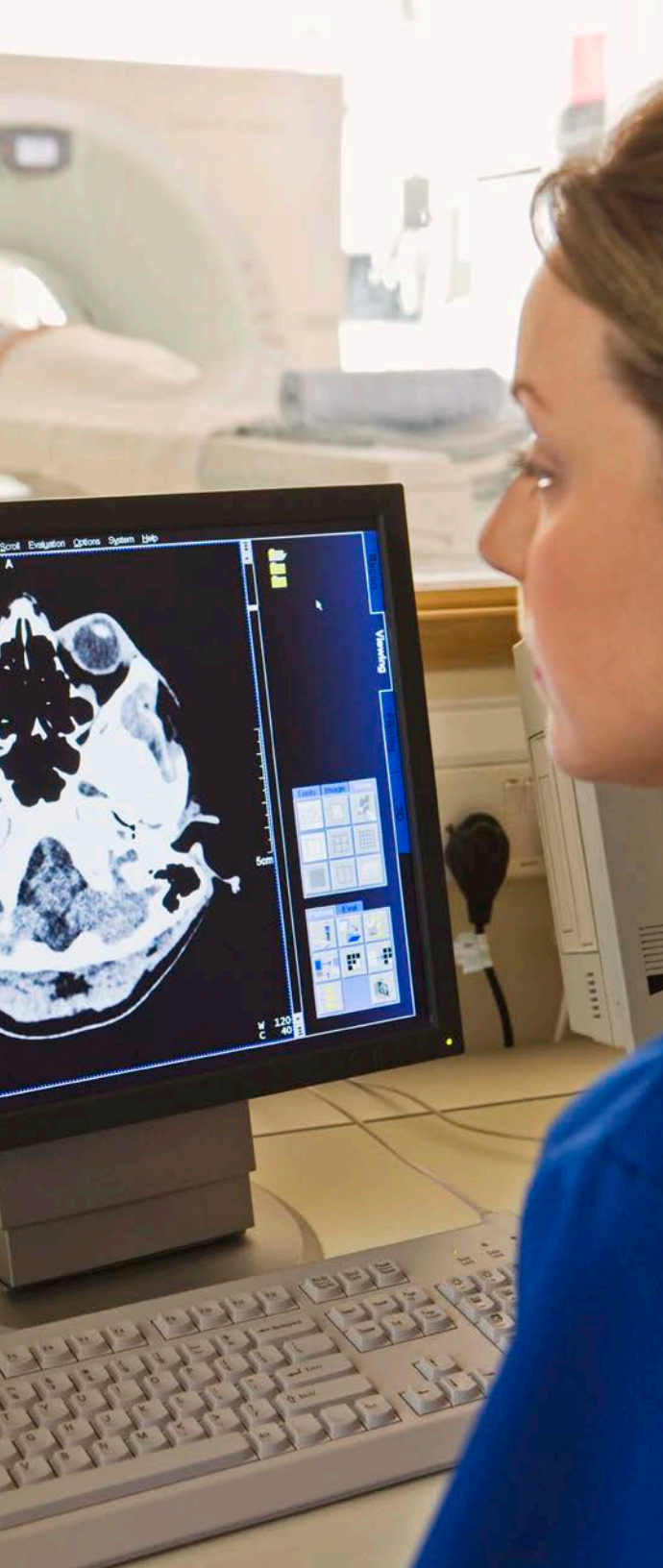
Miscellaneous Information

If you are or have any of the following please let your provider know before your appointment is scheduled or tell a technologist before the start of the exam.

- pregnant (or think you may be pregnant)
- nursing an infant
- have a known or suspected allergy to CT IV contrast

Per Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Imaging policy, children under 18 must be supervised by a responsible adult, which is not the patient.

Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin is an academic system; students, interns, or residents (doctors) may be involved in your care.



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