Care Gram

Computed Tomography (CT) Scan

Date of Test: _____ Test Time: _____

Welcome
Welcome to Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) Radiology Department. Your doctor has requested a Computerized Tomography (CT) scan. This test combines a series of X-ray images taken from different angles. These images are processed on a computer to create cross-sectional images (or slices) of the head, spine, chest, abdomen, and other areas of the body. CT scan images provide more detailed information on bones, soft tissues, and blood vessels than can be obtained through standard X-ray.

A radiographer (specialist in the use of X-ray equipment) will take the advanced X-ray.

How the Test Works
The scanner has a doughnut-shaped ring that is open. You will be lying on an exam table. The sensors in the scanner detect X-rays passing through your body. Computers process the information from the sensors. Then, it is displayed as a picture on a video screen. A special medication called a contrast agent may be used to make certain areas show up better on the images. This agent may be injected through an IV or given as a clear oral liquid that you drink at certain times.

Allowing Time
The test usually takes about 15 to 30 minutes. You should allow more time for your entire visit. The time that you arrive depends on the area of your body that will be scanned. You may be asked to arrive up to 1.5 hours before your scheduled test to receive the oral contrast agent. Please follow the instructions outlined below.

Special Instructions for Outpatients
The following instructions only apply to you if your doctor has ordered hydration (fluid) therapy prior to your CT scan. If you are scheduled to receive a contrast agent, you may be asked to go to the Laboratory for a blood test prior to having your CT scan. Certain people must have a blood test for kidney function prior to receiving the contrast agent. Healthy kidney function is needed to remove the contrast agent from your body. If the blood test shows that the kidney function is not normal, you may be asked to return to the Hospital on a different day. We will schedule you to come to the Hospital early to have IV fluids before your scan. You will report to the Outpatient Clinic on the First Floor (by the Emergency Department) prior to your scan for about 4 hours of fluids and again right after the scan for 2 to 4 more hours. **Please be aware that the total time spent at the Hospital on that day may be up to 8 hours.** You may eat or drink up to 3 hours before the scan unless your doctor or the Radiology Department advises you differently, and then you are free to eat after the scan is complete.

Preparation

☐ Head (eyes, ears, etc.)
- Arrive 30 minutes before the test.

☐ Sinuses
- No preparation.
- Arrive 30 minutes before the test.

☐ Chest
- Arrive 30 minutes before the test.
- Please bring chest X-ray CD/report.

☐ Spine
- No preparation.
- Arrive 30 minutes before the test.
- Please bring any outside films or CDs and reports that relate to your test.

☐ Extremities
- Arrive 30 minutes before the test.
- Please bring any outside films or CDs and reports that relate to your test.

☐ Abdomen and Pelvis (together)
- Nothing to eat or drink 3 hours before the test.
- Arrive 1.5 hours before the test.

☐ Abdomen Only (liver, spleen, pancreas, kidney)
- Nothing to eat or drink 3 hours before the test.
- Arrive 1.5 hours before the test.

☐ Pelvis Only (retroperitoneal)
- Nothing to eat or drink 3 hours before the test.
- Arrive 1.5 hours before the test.

☐ Biopsies
- Nothing to eat or drink after midnight.
- If you are taking a blood thinner, aspirin, or any medication with aspirin in it, talk with your doctor about when to stop taking this medication.
- Report to Surgery at the time arranged by surgery staff.
- Please bring any outside films or CDs and reports that relate to your test.

If you have any questions about your test, please call (220) 564-4710.

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Your Role

1. Relax during the test. It is important to keep still and hold your breath when asked. Holding still helps make the clearest images or pictures.
2. Parents of small children who need this test will need to be patient, yet firm. This test can be challenging for everyone. You may stay in the room with the child during the test. Talk to your child before the test to help him/her understand what to expect.
3. If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, be sure to let your doctor know this before the test begins.
4. It is important to notify the registered nurse (R.N.) or radiographer if you have a history of kidney disease and if you take an oral diabetic medication or a blood-thinning medication.

Registering

Please report directly to the Registration area on the LMH First Floor. Come to this area early to register. See the times listed for each scan area under the heading Preparation on page 2. For biopsies, arrive at the time arranged by the Surgery Department staff.

During a CT Scan

- For the test, you may be asked to put on a hospital gown. You will need to remove jewelry, hair clips, clothing, and dentures. You will be asked to lie on a narrow table. The radiographer will then position the area of your body to be studied inside the scanner. The X-ray tube will rotate around you.
- As the test begins, you may hear humming, buzzing, or clicking sounds from the CT scanner. The table may move to position you for a new scan.
- Radiology personnel will observe you during the test from the CT Control Room. You may talk with the staff through an intercom.
- For certain CT exams, you may receive an IV so that we can inject the contrast agent. The injection may make you:
  - Feel warm and flushed
  - Have a metallic taste in the mouth
  - Feel the need to urinate

These sensations are normal. They will last only 1-2 minutes and are not cause for concern.

Please let the radiographer know if you begin to itch, feel short of breath, have problems swallowing, or are uncomfortable.

After the Test

- If you received hydrating IV fluids, you will return to the Outpatient Clinic to finish your infusion.
- If you received a contrast agent, it will be removed through your urine and should not discolor your urine.
- Be sure to drink plenty of fluids (6-8 glasses of water for 2 days) to help your body eliminate the contrast agent. If your doctor has restricted your fluids, please check with him/her about fluid intake.
- You may return to your regular diet, unless otherwise instructed by your doctor, or you have other tests.

Finding Out the Results

The radiologist will study your test and provide the findings to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss these results with you.

Licking Memorial Health Systems complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.
ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1 (220) 564-4006 (TTY: 1 (220) 564-4729).
注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1 (220) 564-4006 (TTY : 1 (220) 564-4729)。

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