

CT EXAM

What is a CT Scan?

Computed tomography or CT Scan is an advanced form of X-Ray in which multiple detailed X-rays are taken in a circles around your body. A computer is used to combine all of these detailed X-rays and then separates them into thin cross sections much like a loaf of bread that is sliced. A radiologist interprets these digital images.

How do I schedule a CT Scan?

1. Make sure you have a prescription form your doctor.
2. Make sure that you have your insurance Pre-authorization. Check with your doctor's office to see if one is required.
3. Please call Allegheny Imaging of McCandless at 412-367-7226(SCAN)
4. Please tell the scheduling person that you would like to make an appointment for a CT Scan.
5. You will be asked if you have ever had a CT Scan before.
6. You will be asked if you have any allergies to foods or medicines. Especially IV contrast allergies.
7. Please read the information exactly as it is written on your prescription to the scheduler.
8. Please provide the scheduler with the authorization number.
9. Place your prescription in a safe place to bring with you to your scheduled exam.
10. Make sure you have your insurance card to bring with as well.
11. Pay attention to the preparation requirements for the exam.

How do I prepare for the CT Scan?

The exam preparation is slightly different based on which area of your body we are examining. The scheduler will inform you of any necessary diet restrictions or special preparations required. If you are to receive IV contrast (dye) for your exam, you may only have clear liquids 3 hours prior to the exam. Clear liquids are any thing that you can see through. Of course you may take any medications that you are required to take prior to the exam with water.

For certain CT Scan exams, you may be required to drink an oral contrast. This is a mixture of Barium and water. It is white in color and sometimes has a chalky flavor. You may pick up your oral contrast at our Imaging Center up to the day before your scheduled exam between 8am and 5pm. You will be given specific instructions to follow. If it is inconvenient to pick up this oral contrast prior to your scheduled exam, you can arrive 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time to drink the contrast.

Our staff will assist you with any questions or concerns.

What should I expect during the CT Scan?

Typically you will be asked a series of questions prior to the examination. The screening questionnaire can be accessed by the link if you choose to do prior to your appointment. Just remember to print and bring with you to be reviewed by our staff.

Depending on the area of your body to be examined, you may be asked to change into a patient gown. After your screening questionnaire has been reviewed by our staff you may be asked to lay on the scan table flat on your back. We will make every attempt to make you comfortable for the CT Scan.

An intravenous (IV) line may need to be started on you for your exam. We use this IV line to inject a contrast or dye so that we can see different organs and your bodies blood supply.

We will raise the table and slide you through a doughnut shaped machine. You may be asked to hold your breath for certain portions of the CT Scan. We will give you instructions throughout the CT Scan. When we use the IV, you may experience a warm sensation for about 1 minute. This feeling will pass quickly.

What should I expect after the CT Scan?

You may resume your normal activities after the CT Scan. Your exam will be interpreted by a Sub-specialized Radiologist. This means a physician who has extra training in this area. A written report will be sent to your physician within 2 days. Your doctor will notify you of the results.

Allegheny imaging of McCandless is a full service Imaging Center with the following services offered:

- MRI
- CT Scan
- Ultrasound
- Bone Densitometry
- X-Ray
- Digital Mammogram
- Nuclear Medicine
- Cardiac Nuclear Medicine
- Echocardiography

For more information call:
Allegheny Imaging of McCandless
412-367-7226(SCAN)