

Contrast CT

How long will the procedure take?

A Contrast CT will usually take 15-20 minutes.

Risks of Procedure

Women should always inform their doctor and CT technologist if there is any possibility that they are pregnant. CT scanning is, in general, not recommended for pregnant women unless medically necessary because of potential risk to the baby.

Nursing mothers should wait for 24 hours after contrast material injection before resuming breast-feeding.

With Ioscan, be careful not to aspirate (contents entering the lungs) as it can cause serious breathing difficulties.

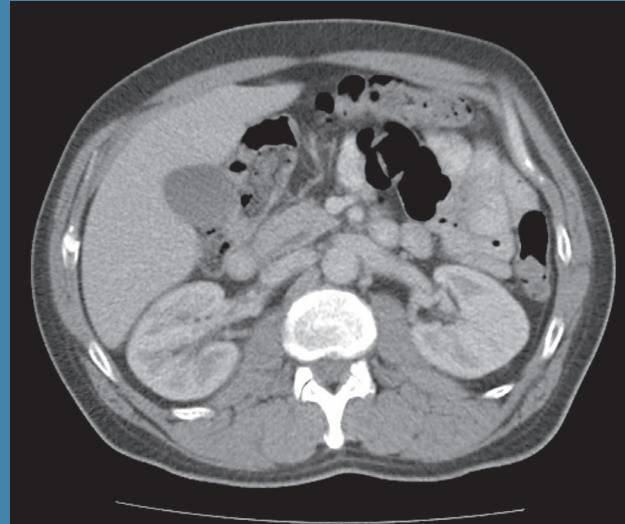
The risk of serious allergic reaction to contrast materials that contain iodine is extremely low, and radiology departments are well-equipped to deal with them.

If you have any related previous images from another provider please bring them on the day.

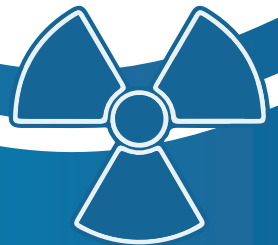
Disclaimer:

The information contained in this brochure is intended as a guide only. If patients require more specific information please contact your referring Doctor.

Image of a Contrast CT



An abdomen CT during the portal-venous phase following an injection of IV contrast. The image shows the liver, gallbladder, kidneys, the large and small bowel, aorta, vertebrae and other smaller structures.



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What is a Contrast CT?

CT scans of internal organs, bones, soft tissue and blood vessels reveal more details than regular x-rays. A contrast CT scan involves the use of oral contrast and/or intravenous contrast material. Oral contrast is a drink containing iodine which helps to show up your gastrointestinal tract. Intravenous contrast is an iodine based injection which helps to show up your organs and blood vessels on the CT scan. A contrast CT is usually used to help diagnose the cause of pain and diseases of the internal organs, such as:

- Infections and inflammatory processes such as Appendicitis, Diverticulitis, Pyelonephritis, Pancreatitis, Liver Cirrhosis, Inflammatory Bowel Disease such as Ulcerative Colitis or Crohn's Disease, or abscesses.
 - Cancers of the lungs, colon, liver, kidneys, pancreas and bladder as well as lymphoma.
 - Kidney and gall bladder stones.
 - Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms (AAA), blood clots and abnormal narrowing of blood vessels.
- Contrast CT scanning is also performed to:
- Quickly identify injuries to the liver, spleen, kidneys or other internal organs in cases of trauma.
 - stage, plan and properly administer radiation treatments for tumors as well as monitor response to chemotherapy.

Preparation

Women must inform the radiographer if there is any chance that they are pregnant or if they are breast feeding.

Please let the office staff and/or the radiographer know if you are allergic to iodine.

Some medications used by diabetic patients should not be taken before a CT scan. Specifically, that medication is Metformin Hydrochloride. The following medications contain Metformin:

Chem Mart Metformin, Diabex, Diaformin, Gen Rx Metformin, lucohexal, Glucomet, Glucophage, Metformin BC, Metformin and Healthsene Metformin.

Please stop this medication 24 hours before your exam and do not take it for 48 hours after your exam.

You will need to fast for 4 hours prior to the examination.

You may be required to drink oral contrast to enhance the bowel if so you will be given two (2) sachets of IOSCAN. 90 minutes prior to your exam time, empty 1 sachet of Ioscan into a large glass (250mls) of water, stir and drink. 45 minutes prior to your exam time, empty the second sachet into a large glass of water, stir, then drink.

If you are over 55 years of age, your doctor will give you a pathology slip to have a 'U & E' blood test done prior to having a contrast CT. Please ensure that the blood test is done at least 2 days prior to the CT to allow the results to be available on the day of your CT.

Procedure

You will be asked to remove your clothes and to wear a gown during the exam. You may also be asked to remove jewellery, dentures, eye glasses and any metal objects that might interfere with the CT images.

You will be asked to lie down and remain still on the CT table. You may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds.

You will be given an injection of contrast medium. After the contrast is injected, you may feel a slight hot flush, notice a metallic taste in your mouth or feel that you may wet yourself. These sensations are normal and pass rapidly.

The Radiographer will be in the next room to activate the CT machine.