

How long will the procedure take?

A Contrast CT will usually take 15-20 minutes.

What are the potential risks?

Women should always inform their physician 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.

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.

Disclaimer:

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Please bring your Medicare card and any Healthcare, Pension or Concession cards if applicable.

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



Contrast CT



Radiology Department

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 intravenous contrast material. 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 such as Appendicitis, Diverticulitis, Pyelonephritis or abscesses.
- Inflammatory processes such as Pancreatitis, Liver Cirrhosis or Inflammatory Bowel Disease such as Ulcerative Colitis or Crohn's Disease.
- 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.
- guide biopsies and other procedures such as abscess drainages.
- stage, plan and properly administer radiation treatments for tumors as well as monitor response to chemotherapy.

Before the procedure

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.

If you are diabetic, have kidney disease or over 70 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.

During the 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, hearing aids and any metal objects or clothing that might interfere with the CT images.

You will be asked to lie down on the CT table.

You will be given an injection of contrast medium. As contrast is required you will need to have a cannula placed in one of your arm veins. 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.

You will be asked to lie still on the examination table while the CT images are taken. You may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds.

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