



THE CT IMAGING EXPERIENCE

What to expect. . .

You do have a choice. . .



NeuroScience Imaging Center

2065 East South Blvd., Montgomery, AL 36116

Parker Pavilion, Suite 102

To schedule please call

334-286-3160

Seimens 16-slice CT

- ◆ **Enhanced Image Quality**
 - Multi-slice system
 - Thinner slice acquisitions
- ◆ **Increased Scan speed**
 - Reduced Radiation dose
 - Care Dose technology
 - Over 1/3 less radiation than typical scanners
- ◆ **Broader Range of examinations**
 - Vascular imaging
 - Bone multi-planar imaging
 - All traditional scanning
- ◆ **3D Post processing and Advanced Evaluation Tools**
 - Scanner reconstruction abilities
 - MPR- multi-planar reformatting
 - MIP- Maximum Intensity Projection
 - VRT- Volume Rendering Technique
 - Tera recon 3D processing software
- ◆ **CD archiving with viewing tools**
 - Viewable on any computer
 - Tools for measuring and manipulation
 - Available to Doctors and Patients
- ◆ **Registered Technologist and Highly Trained**
- ◆ **Relaxed Comfortable Atmosphere**
- ◆ **Facilities adhere to *Image Gently* guidelines**



Call for Same Day Services

What to expect. . .

CT scanning (CAT scanning) is a noninvasive medical test that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions.

CT scanning combines special x-ray equipment with sophisticated computers to produce multiple images or pictures of the inside of the body. CT scans of internal organs, bone, soft tissue and blood vessels provide greater clarity and reveal more details than regular x-ray exams.

How should I prepare for the procedure?

You should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing to your exam. You may be given a gown to wear during the procedure.

You may be asked not to eat or drink anything for several hours beforehand, especially if a contrast material will be used in your exam. You should inform your physician of any medications you are taking and if you have any allergies. If you have a known allergy to contrast material, or "dye," your doctor may prescribe medications to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction.

Also inform your doctor of any recent illnesses or other medical conditions, and if you have a history of heart disease, asthma, diabetes, kidney disease or thyroid problems. Any of these conditions may increase the risk of an unusual adverse effect.

Women should always inform their physician and the CT technologist if there is any possibility that they are pregnant.

Jewelry and other accessories should be left at home if possible, or removed prior to the CT scan. These items include:

- ◆ jewelry, watches, credit cards and hearing aids, all of which can be damaged.
- ◆ pins, hairpins, metal zippers and similar metallic items, which can distort CT images.
- ◆ removable dental work.
- ◆ pens, pocketknives and eyeglasses.
- ◆ body piercings.

How is the procedure performed?

The technologist begins by positioning you on the CT examination table, usually lying flat on your back or possibly on your side or on your stomach. Straps and pillows may be used to help you maintain the correct position and to hold still during the exam. If contrast material is used, it will be swallowed, injected through an intravenous line (IV) or administered by enema, depending on the type of examination.

Next, the table will move quickly through the scanner to determine the correct starting position for the scans. Then, the table will move slowly through the machine as the actual CT scanning is performed. You may be asked to hold your breath during the scanning. Any motion, whether breathing or body movements, can lead to artifacts on the images. This is similar to the blurring seen on a photograph taken of a moving object.

What will I experience during and after the procedure?

CT exams are generally painless, fast and easy. Though the scanning itself causes no pain, there may be some discomfort from having to remain still for several minutes. If an intravenous contrast material is used, you will feel a slight pin prick when the needle is inserted into your vein. You may have a warm, flushed sensation during the injection of the contrast materials and a metallic taste in your mouth that lasts for a few minutes. Some patients may experience a sensation like they have to urinate but this subsides quickly.

If the contrast material is swallowed, you may find the taste mildly unpleasant; however, most patients can easily tolerate it. You can expect to experience a sense of abdominal fullness and an increasing need to expel the liquid if your contrast material is given by enema. In this case, be patient, as the mild discomfort will not last long.

Many patients also receive contrast intravenously (injected into a vein) to help evaluate blood vessels and organs such as the liver, kidneys and pancreas.

When you enter the CT scanner, special lights may be used to ensure that you are properly positioned. With modern CT scanners, you will hear only slight buzzing, clicking and whirring sounds as the CT scanner revolves around you during the imaging process. You will be alone in the exam room during the CT scan. However, the technologist will be able to see, hear and speak with you at all times.

With pediatric patients, a parent may be allowed in the room but will be required to wear a lead apron to prevent radiation exposure.

For further information please consult the ACR Manual on Contrast Media, Version 6, 2008, and its references. You may find it on the ACR Website (<http://www.acr.org/contrast-manual>).

Who interprets the results and how do I get them?

A radiologist will analyze the images and send a signed report to your primary care or referring physician, who will share the results with you.

Source: <http://www.radiologyinfo.org>

