

# CT & CT Angiography at Premier Imaging



**Premier Imaging is accredited in CT by the American College of Radiology.**

Computed tomography (CT) scanning produces multiple x-rays of the body in cross-sectional images, or “slices,” and can be interpreted three dimensionally.

**Premier Imaging’s Sieman 64-slice CT scanner uses dose modulation ensuring the lowest possible radiation dosage.**

## **Exam Preparation Page**

- If you are on any medications that are necessary to take on a daily basis, please DO NOT withhold these medications without checking with our staff. If you are DIABETIC AND TAKE GLUGOPHAGE, METFORMIN, GLUCOVANCE, METAGLIP, ADVANDAMENT please alert our office at the time of scheduling your examination. You will be given specific information after your examination is completed.
- If you have any allergies to Iodine, other medications, or have asthma, please contact our office prior to your examination.
- If there is a possibility that you might be pregnant, please let our office know at the time of scheduling.
- If you have any questions regarding your examination, please be sure to contact our office and we will be glad to help you.

If for any reason you cannot make your scheduled appointment, please call to reschedule your appointment. If you need further directions, please contact our office at 816 941-1400.

CT HEAD/NECK/SINUSES/IAC’S/CHEST: Nothing to eat or drink 4 hours prior to your scheduled appointment time.

CT ABDOMEN/PELVIS: If you need to drink barium prior to your examination, please pick it up from your physician’s office. If your physician’s office is not able to provide you with barium please pick it up from our office. If you are unable to do so, please plan to arrive 2 hours prior to your scan time in order to drink the barium and provide enough transit time to coat the entire bowel system. Please do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your examination other than your barium. Please drink one bottle the night before the exam and the other one hour prior to your scheduled appointment time.

CT ANGIOGRAPHY(CAROTIDS/AORTA/RUNOFFS): Nothing to eat or drink 4 hours prior to your scheduled appointment time.

CT RENAL STONE: Nothing to eat or drink 4 hours prior to your scheduled appointment time.

## **Registration Process and Forms**

On the day of your exam, please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment, in order to allow for registration and processing of paperwork. You must check in, and register with the clerical staff. Your insurance card is required for registration, and depending on your insurance carrier, you may have a co-pay. If you have had X-rays or scans (or any exams on compact discs) to diagnose this same or similar problem at another facility, please make sure you bring them with you. These films or scans will be kept for reporting and then mailed back to the facility of origin.

## **Patient Preparation**

After registration, when it is time for your examination, a technologist will escort you to the dressing room if you need to change into a hospital gown for your examination. If you have a condition that requires you to take medication on a regular basis, you should keep to your regular medication schedule. The only exception is Metformin or Glucophage, they must be held for 48 hours following the CT examination if you receive an IV contrast injection. Some examinations require that you drink barium sulfate, you will need to follow the directions on how and when to drink your barium. A dressing room is provided for secure lock up of your clothing and valuables.

## **Exam Procedure**

The technologist will go over the CT screening form with you, explain the procedure and answer any questions that you might have. You will then be escorted into the scan room. You will hear humming noises which are produced during the scanner's operation. The scan room has a large donut-shaped gantry with a padded table that moves you into the center of the machine once you are positioned. Whether or not you go into the machine head first or feet first, as well as, how far in you go, is determined by the type of exam being performed. The scanner is equipped with a two-way intercom for communication with the technologist. It is very important that you remain relaxed and try not to move during the scan. Even very slight movement of the part being scanned can cause very distorted images that will have to be repeated. For some exams, you may be asked to hold your breath for 10-30 seconds as the pictures are taken.

## **Length of Scan**

The exam consists of several different scans that vary in length and type of sound they produce. Most exams take 5 to 15 minutes, but there are a few exams that take 20 to 30 minutes. Some exams may also require the injection of a contrast agent called Isovue. This contrast agent is a colorless fluid, which is injected into a vein in your arm. The contrast agent is very safe; its purpose is to make the details in the CT images clearer and is standard for some types of examinations. If you require a

contrast injection, the technologist will take you out of the scanner and inject it into a vein in your arm. The technologist will then return you to your original position in the scanner. Since we need the images before and after the injection to match, it is important that you do not move while the contrast medium is being administered. Please note, each CT scan is individualized and tailored to each patient's needs. If you have had a CT scan before do not be concerned if this one is longer or shorter.

### **After the Exam**

After the exam, the radiologist and technologist will review the images to ensure diagnostic quality. If the quality is acceptable, you can go home. If more images are needed, they will usually be taken right away.

If you have had an IV injection during your exam it will be eliminated by your kidneys within the next few hours. Increasing your intake of water during this time would be beneficial. There are no lasting effects from the contrast injection, however, if you feel that you are having an adverse reaction, please call your physician.

The barium or oral contrast that you may have had to drink for your study can sometimes be constipating. Increasing your fluids will help prevent this. If the oral contrast you drank is white, your stools may be chalky white and light-colored for the next few days.

### **Your CT Report**

Your scan will be reviewed by a radiologist. The CT report will be sent to your physician, and your physician will be the one to discuss the results with you.