



Computed Tomography (CT)

Your Role in Patient Safety

Computerized Tomography

A CT (or CAT) scan uses x-rays and a computer to create detailed images of your body. The scan is painless and usually takes 10 to 30 minutes, depending on the part of your body being scanned. CT scans can help to diagnose medical conditions, check existing conditions and is used to prepare for other tests and treatments.

X-ray Safety

Special care is taken during the scan to use the lowest radiation dose possible. Lead protection is given, when needed.

State-of-the-art X-ray systems are used, which ensures that those parts of your body not being imaged receive minimal or no radiation exposure. Females between the ages of 10 to 55 years* are asked if there is any possibility of pregnancy, before having a CT examination.

X-rays and Pregnancy

CT scans are not recommended for pregnant women because the x-rays could harm the unborn child. Before having a scan, tell your doctor or other healthcare professional responsible for your care if there is a chance you may be pregnant. Children are at greater risk from radiation than adults. Children only have CT scans if they have a serious condition that puts them at an increased risk.

Medications

You should never stop taking any prescribed medications, unless you are advised to by your doctor or other health care professional responsible for your care.

Preparation

In some CT examinations, you may be asked to follow some instructions, to prepare for the test. You will be advised of any instructions needed to be followed before your procedure.

Contrast Media

To see certain parts of the body clearly, such as your intestines or blood vessels, we may use contrast media (x-ray dye). Contrast medium can be given in different ways. It can be swallowed (as a drink), given as an enema or injected into your bloodstream. In rare cases, contrast medium can cause an adverse reaction. If contrast is needed, we will ask you some questions about your medical history and check your suitability, before your test.



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Let Us Know if You:

- Are diabetic
- Are asthmatic
- Have had a previous reaction to contrast media
- Have any allergies
- Have any heart, kidney or liver problems
- Are anxious about your CT examination
- Have any questions or concerns about pregnancy
- Are worried about the radiation risks of your test
- Are unable to perform any of the instructions required for the test or your appointment

Tips for Keeping Safe

Ensure you inform the staff of any slip, trip or falls you may have had within the last 6 months. Bring any mobility aids you use at home with you, to assist in your examination. Help promote infection control within the hospital, by using the hand sanitizer from the stations provided.

Self Screen

Please reschedule your appointment if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever Cough
- Trouble breathing
- Body aches or tiredness
- Bad headache
- Wear your hospital ID bracelet while you are at the hospital
- Free interpretation services are available, upon request

Locations

General campus

Main X-ray department, East Wing 1st Floor
Satellite X-ray department, Ground Floor, West Wing
CT booking and enquiries: 416-438-2911, ext: 6704

Birchmount campus

Main X-ray department, Main Floor
CT booking and enquiries: 416-495-2701

Birchmount campus
3030 Birchmount Road
Scarborough, ON M1W 3W3
(416) 495-2400

General campus
3050 Lawrence Avenue East
Scarborough, ON M1P 2V5
(416) 438-2911