

CT Chest

A chest CT (computed tomography) scan is an imaging method that uses x-rays to create cross-sectional pictures of the chest and upper abdomen.

Certain CT scans require a special dye, called contrast, to be delivered into the body before the test starts. Contrast highlights specific areas inside the body and creates a clearer image. If your doctor requests a CT scan with intravenous contrast, you will be given it through a vein (IV) in your arm or hand. A blood test to measure your kidney function may be done before the test. This test is to make sure your kidneys are healthy enough to filter the contrast.

You may be given medicine to help you relax during the test.

How the Test is performed:

- You may be asked to change into a hospital gown.
- You lie on a narrow table that slides into the center of the scanner. Once you are inside the scanner, the machine's x-ray beam rotates around you.
- You must be still during the exam, because movement causes blurred images. You may be told to hold your breath for short period of time.

The complete scan takes 30 seconds to a few minutes.

Preparation:

- a. You may require blood work done prior to your CT Angio. You will receive a requisition from your Cardiologist.
- b. No solid food 4 hours prior to CT. May have clear fluids (no caffeine), and regular medications.
- c. Bring a list of Medications
- d. If needed, you may bring a support person (language barrier, deaf, ect...)

DIABETIC: If you are taking Metformin, Avandament, Glucophage, and receiving and IV Contrast (hospital will tell you when you are at your appointment.), you will be required to **STOP** your medications **48 HOURS AFTER** the exam. You will be required to see your family doctor to have it restarted after they have checked your blood work.