



CAT SCAN OF THE HEAD (BRAIN)

A. WHAT IS THIS EXAM?

A CAT Scan is a special computerized X-ray test that allows your doctor to see the organs, bones and tissues. This test is done to help diagnose various disease processes in the brain. Your doctor or radiologist may request that you receive contrast through a vein in your arm to highlight the blood vessels and other areas in your brain.

- You will not be receiving Intravenous Contrast, therefore no prep is required.
Please skip to Section C.
- Your doctor or radiologist may want you to have Intravenous Contrast.
Please follow the instructions in Section B.

B. PRIOR TO THIS EXAM:

1. DO NOT eat anything 4 hours prior to this exam.
DO NOT drink anything 2 hours prior to this exam.
If you are diabetic, you need to contact your family physician for instructions on diet and/or medication.
2. If you have an Iodine, X-ray dye, or contrast allergy you need to contact the Radiology Nurse at (814) 877-6182.
3. If you meet one or more of the following criteria, you will need blood work to evaluate your kidney function prior to this exam. Please contact the ordering physician if you are:
 - Age 65 or older
 - Diabetic
 - Have a history of multiple vascular surgeries/procedures (i.e., Open Heart, Stents, Heart Catheterizations)
 - Currently receiving Chemotherapy
 - History of Kidney Failure
 - If you were born with one kidney OR if you had a kidney removed surgically

C. DAY OF EXAM:

1. For your convenience, we ask that you do not wear earrings or a necklace or hairpins. Any item that is metal in the area of interest will need to be removed prior to your exam.
2. You should report to Outpatient Registration 30 minutes before your scheduled exam time.

D. AFTER YOUR EXAM:

You can plan on returning to your normal diet and activities. If there are any other instructions, they will be given to you at the time of your exam.

For any questions or concerns, please call (814) 877-6182.

Your physician should have the results of your exam in 2-3 working days.

If you need your films or CD for an appointment, please notify the receptionist when you arrive.