

Cat Scans (CT's)

- Prep's You will be required to drink 2 bottles of Barium Contrast for most Cat Scans, excluded are Cat Scans (CT's) of your Chest, Head, or a CTA (CT Angiography) the majority of scans done at BGC Imaging are Abdomen and Pelvic scans. Both of which require 2 Barium Smoothie's to be consumed. If you have not received any please call the imaging center and we can make appropriate arrangements.
- Patients having a CTE (CT Enterography) will be drinking at the Imaging Center and are expected to arrive an hour and 15 minutes before the scan will be taking place.
- If you are Diabetic and labs are given to you, this will need to be done before your exam, preferable 3 or more days if possible. If labs are not ordered, please call the Imaging center to make sure we have your appropriate information. This pertains to patients receiving IV Contrast.
- Diabetic patients will also discontinue any medication containing Metformin for 48 Hours after receiving IV Contrast (See Forms Section).
- If you have had an allergic reaction to IV Contrast alert your Physician.

What to Expect

During a CT scan, you lie on a table inside a doughnut-shaped machine called a gantry. An X-ray tube inside the machine rotates around your body taking images.

The computer then assembles the images and displays them on a computer monitor.

Expect the exam to last no longer than an hour, depending on the preparation needed and whether it includes the use of a contrast medium. The scan itself may take less than a minute on the newest machines. Most scans take just a few minutes to complete.

During the CT scan, you lie on a narrow table that slides through the opening of the gantry. You may lie on your back, side or stomach, depending on the area to be scanned. The table can be raised or lowered. Straps and pillows may help you stay in position. During a CT scan of the head, the table may be fitted with a special cradle that holds your head still.

What the device does

As the X-ray tube rotates around your body, the table slowly moves through the gantry. While the table is moving you may need to hold your breath to avoid blurring the images.

You may hear clicking and whirring noises. Each rotation yields several images of thin slices of your body.

During this time, a technologist in a shielded room supervises the CT scan and monitors the images as they appear on the computer screen. The technologist can see and hear you, and you can communicate via intercom.

CT scans are painless. If your exam involves use of an intravenous contrast medium, you may feel a brief sensation of heat or experience a metallic taste in your mouth. If you receive the contrast medium through an enema — to help highlight your lower gastrointestinal region — you may feel a sense of fullness or cramping.

After the exam you can return to your normal routine. If you were given a contrast medium, your doctor, a nurse or the CT technologist performing the scan may give you special instructions. You may be asked to wait for a short time in the radiology department to ensure that you feel well after the exam. After the scan, you'll likely be told to drink lots of fluids to help your kidneys remove the medium from your body.

Results

By: BGC Imaging

CT images are stored as electronic data files and usually reviewed on a computer. A radiologist interprets these images and sends a report to your doctor. When requesting your results these are delivered by your referring physician (the physician who ordered your scan).