

How to Prepare for Your CT Scan

Exam Overview

What is CT?

Computed Tomography (CT) scanning is a rapid, painless diagnostic examination that combines X-rays and computers. A CT scan allows the radiologist to see the location, nature, and extent of many different diseases or abnormalities inside your body.

Our computerized CT scanner incorporates all recent and dramatic advances. It is capable of ultra rapid scanning and helical imaging, a combination that allows an examination of the abdomen to be completed in seconds. The high-resolution images this system produces reveal unsurpassed details, and computers allow Hillsborough Radiology radiologists to manipulate and reconstruct images in multiple planes, extrapolating 3-dimensional images from the original data. This enables physicians to visualize vessels and organs similar to "virtual reality."



CT Scan Exam Prep Checklist

- The meal prior to your CT examination should consist of CLEAR liquids ONLY. (You may have coffee/tea WITHOUT milk; jello; broth; soda; and grape, cranberry or apple juice.)
- Prescription medications may be taken as usual. EXCEPTION: Do not take Glucophage.
- You will be asked to come to the office and pick up a barium drink, which will highlight your intestines and colon for the procedure. DO NOT REFRIGERATE the barium drink.
- TWO (2) HOURS BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT, Remove cap and drink the liquid within 30 minutes to the first designated line on the container.
- ONE (1) HOUR BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT, Drink the liquid within 30 minutes to the 2nd designated line on the container.
- Bring the REMAINDER OF LIQUID with you to the office.
- Arrive at our office 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time. These 15 minutes will allow time for you to complete a medical history form. You will finish drinking the liquid when the study begins.