



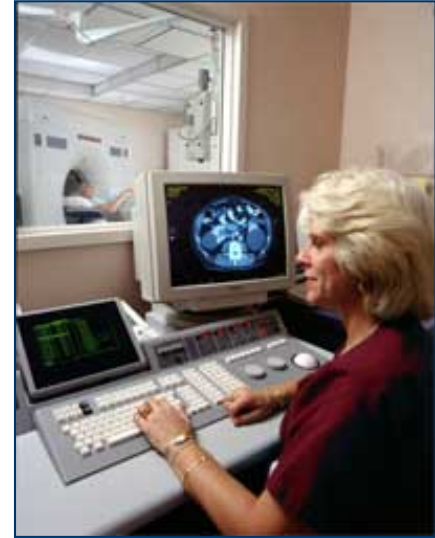
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Computed Tomography (CT)

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What is Computed Tomography?

Since its introduction in 1974, computed tomography, also known as CT or CAT Scan has revolutionized medical care by providing detailed images of the body and disease processes. A CT Scan uses an x-ray beam that rotates around the patient. This process generates data used by a computer to generate an image of the body's internal structure.



The study appears as slices, similar to a loaf of bread. During a routine x-ray, dense tissues can block other areas. The CAT Scan is able to put together the different slices to create a three dimensional view, clearly showing both bone and soft tissue.

The detailed pictures may show problems in soft tissues, body organs, and bones. Physicians frequently use CT to examine the brain, sinuses, lungs, chest, abdomen, pelvis, and skeleton.

The versatility of the CT exam in providing precise body images has allowed it to replace many painful diagnostic procedures, as well as several that are more costly. In some cases, it also has eliminated exploratory surgery.

For these reasons, CT scanning is among the major diagnostic tools used today by radiologists.

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What can I expect during the exam?

You will meet your CT technologist whose primary concern is your care and well-being. This technologist has completed a rigorous course of education and training, and works under the close supervision of our radiologists to assure the most accurate results from your examination.

Prior to the start of your CT exam the technologist will explain the procedure to you. This is done for two reasons: to solicit your cooperation, and to put your mind at ease as to what is taking place. It is in your best interest to follow these instructions in order to obtain the desired results.

Next, you will be gently positioned and secured on the scan table. It is important that you be secured, because even the slightest movement during the split seconds of imaging can blur the picture and result in the need for repeated scans. Then, you will be moved into the scanner, which is a small, air-conditioned chamber.

The technologist will have you in view at all times and will be in constant communication via two-way intercom. During this brief time, you will hear the humming of the equipment as it produces the images. You may also feel slight movement of the table as it prepares for the next scan.

The exam usually takes from 30 to 60 minutes. This allows for preparation as well as time for the computer to generate the images.

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How do I prepare for this exam?

- Do not eat solid food for three hours prior to the exam. You may drink clear liquids during this time.
- Routine medications may also be taken.
- Abdominal/Pelvic Scan: We will schedule you to arrive one hour before your scan so that you will have time to prepare for the study. During this hour, you will be drinking oral contrast (dilute barium). Contrast is a liquid that improves the visibility of structures within the body.

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What can I expect after the exam?

The radiologist, a physician specialist, will study the results of your exam and discuss them with your doctor, who will then consult with you.

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Where is this exam offered?

- [Broadway, Fort Myers](#)
- [Winkler Road, South Fort Myers](#)
- [Del Prado Boulevard, Cape Coral](#)
- [Cay West, Cape Coral](#)
- [Lee Boulevard, Lehigh Acres](#)
- [Goodlette Road, Naples](#)

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Other Questions

Will a contrast agent be used?

A contrast media may be required to improve the diagnostic detail of the CAT Scan. Some contrast agents are taken orally and others are administered through an intravenous (IV) line or by injection. It is normal to feel a warm sensation as the dye make its way through your body. This substance is eliminated in one or two days. All patients are carefully screened for any allergies prior to administering contrast.

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Related Topics

- [Ultrafast Heart CT Scan](#)
- [Ultrafast Lung CT Scan](#)

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