

## **CT SCAN**

### **What is a CT Scan?**

A CT scan is the process of creating cross-sectional images of any part of the body. During the exam, a thin x-ray beam scans multiple points about the periphery of the body part. A computer then reconstructs the data creating two-dimensional x-ray images or "slices." CT examinations compliment other imaging exams such as x-ray films by offering physicians an additional tool in which to view anatomy. In some cases, CT provides diagnostic information that cannot be achieved with any other method.

### **The Procedure**

The technologist will bring you into the CT scan room where the procedure will be explained to you. The technologist will help you onto the cushioned table.

To obtain the best possible images, it is important that you lie very still during the exam.

As the procedure begins you will hear a whirring sound as the x-ray tube moves within the machine; the table will move slightly as each picture is taken.

Depending on the type of examination you are having, you may be given an injection of contrast material (x-ray dye). Sometimes scans are performed prior to receiving x-ray dye and then repeated after the dye is given. In either case, the technologist will explain each step of the examination.

The technologist will communicate with you during your exam through a microphone. You may be given "breathing" instructions during your exam.

If you are having a biopsy during your CT scan, you will be asked to sign a permission (consent) form.

### **Preparation**

Do not eat or drink anything for 2 hours before your exam. If you take medications, ask your doctor if you should take them before your CT scan. Any medication should be taken with a small sip of water.

If you are having an examination of your abdomen or pelvis, you will be given a flavored drink to outline your intestines and stomach.

If you are receiving IV X-ray dye, and are allergic to any medications, or have had a previous allergic reaction X-ray dye, please tell your doctor, the Radiologist or the technologist.

### **Afterwards**

Occasionally, additional information is needed; you may be asked to lie on the table again for more scans.

The Radiologist will review the images from your CT Scan and provide a detailed report to your physician. Your physician will discuss these results to you and explain what they mean relative to your health.

#### **Note:**

Any woman who is pregnant, or thinks she might be, should let her doctor know before proceeding with a CT scan