

## **BENEFITS**

Computed Tomography (CT) scans are accurate and increase the efficiency of diagnosis for serious conditions that would otherwise be difficult to see. Ct scans produce detailed pictures of many types of tissues and bones that cannot be produced with regular X-Rays. This allows the radiologist (a specialized doctor) to see fractures, growths, bleeding, blockages and other conditions without invasive surgery.

## **RISKS**

As with most radiology procedures, you will be exposed to radiation. We are continually striving to ensure that precautions are taken to minimize the amount of radiation used to complete the procedure.

## **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

Please advise your doctor and the technologists performing the procedure of the following:

- If there is any possibility that you could be pregnant
- If you have any allergies, or a history of allergic reactions to anesthetic or x-ray contrast dyes
- If you have any history of asthma, heart, or kidney problems
- Any medications you are taking



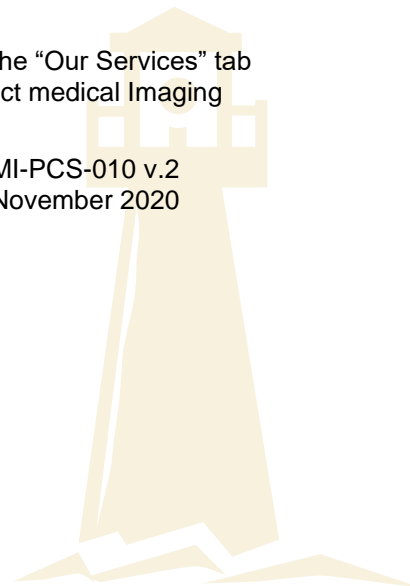
## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

For more information on Computed Tomography procedures please visit:

[www.easternhealth.ca](http://www.easternhealth.ca)

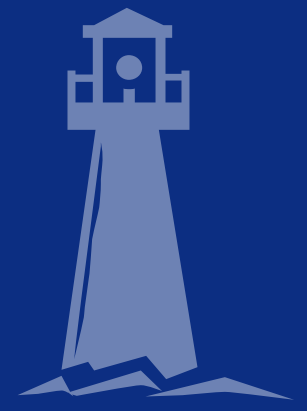
Go to the "Our Services" tab  
Select medical imaging

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## **COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT)**

[www.easternhealth.ca](http://www.easternhealth.ca)



# CT SCAN

## COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT)

CT examinations are performed by specially trained technologists. Multiple pictures (slices) of the body are taken. The simplest explanation of this technology is to imagine that your body is like a loaf of bread. This loaf has many slices to it and a CT scan allows us to look at each individual slice in great detail.

CT scans are particularly useful for seeing organs, bones, musculoskeletal disorders, cardiovascular disease, infectious diseases, and cancer.

## PREPARATION

Preparation for CT scans varies depending on the area being examined. Contrast (dye) is sometimes required to assist the technologist/radiologist to see the part of the body they are interested in. Dyes can be taken by mouth, given by injection, or sometimes both. If you receive a dye injection during the scan, you may get a warm flushed feeling that will pass in a minute or so.

Some scans may require you to drink two large glasses of liquid dye about one hour before the scan. You may also have to fast the night before your examination. Instructions for preparation are specific to the examination you are booked for and will be included in the letter you receive to advise you of your appointment date and time. The doctor who ordered your examination may also give you information.

- If you are a diabetic, your insulin or blood sugar pills may need to be adjusted. If you are taking medications called metformin or glucophage, these may also have to be adjusted. Please discuss this with
- If you are taking any other medications, continue these as usual with a small sip of water.
- If you could be pregnant or are a nursing mother your scan may need to be booked at a later date. Please discuss this with your doctor before your appointment.
- Please arrive for your appointment early to give yourself time to register and prepare for your examination.

## PROCEDURE

The CT machine is a large piece of equipment with a hole in the center for the body to pass through.

When you enter the scanning room, the technologist will ask you questions about possible allergies and any medications you may be taking. The procedure will then be explained to you.

The CT technologist will position you on the table with your feet or head first, depending on the area of the body to be scanned. The x-ray rotates around the patient's body to take images. You will hear clicking and whirring noises as it moves. During the procedure, it is important for you to remain still.

Special precautions are taken for patients with allergies, diabetes, and for patients taking certain medications. On occasion, children may require a mild sedation or even general anesthesia and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

## WHO REPORTS THE TEST?

Results are reported by radiologists - doctors who are specialized in reading x-ray and CT images.

Your doctor should receive a signed report within **10 business days**. You should follow-up with your doctor to discuss the results of your test.