

# CT SCAN

## ❖ WHAT IS A CT SCAN? (COMPUTERIZED TOMOGRAPHY)

A CT scan is an x-ray exam that produces special images of the body.

These images define the shape, size, and position of internal body parts allowing for a diagnosis. CT scans are usually ordered with CONTRAST MEDIA/DYE.

## ❖ WHAT IS CONTRAST MEDIA/DYE?

Contrast media/dye is a special fluid introduced into the body that shows up on x-ray. It is used to “highlight” the area of the body being scanned. There are three different routes of contrast media/dye: ORAL, INTRAVENOUS (IV), and RECTAL. Depending on what exam your doctor has ordered, you may receive one or all of the above.

ORAL CONTRAST is given to highlight the stomach and small bowel. You will be asked to drink 2-3 glasses of oral contrast 20-30 min. before your scan.

IV CONTRAST is given to highlight the blood vessels and blood flow to the body parts being scanned. It is an iodine-based dye. IV contrast is given during the

scan through a small needle placed into the vein in your arm or hand.

RECTAL CONTRAST is given during the scan in the form of an enema to highlight the large bowel and rectum.

### ❖ **WHO WILL DO THE SCAN?**

CT scans are performed by a CT technologist, who is an expert in the use of the CT scanner.

### ❖ **WHO READS THE CT SCAN?**

A radiologist, a medical doctor who interprets the findings on the CT scan, will review the images. A report of the results will be sent to your doctor.

### ❖ **COST OF THE CT SCAN?**

You will receive two bills for your CT scan: (1) The fee, for doing the CT scan is from Marquette General Hospital. (2) The radiologist's fee for reading the CT scan is from Marquette Radiology Associates.

### ❖ **PLEASE TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR PRIOR TO THE CT SCAN IF THE FOLLOWING ISSUES CONCERN YOU.**

If you think you could be PREGNANT

If you have ever had an allergic reaction to INTRAVENOUS CONTRAST (iodine dye), such as hives, rash, facial swelling, or difficulty breathing.

**NOTE:** IV contrast is given for kidney/bladder x-rays (IVP), CT scan, myelogram, heart catheterization, or any study of the blood vessels.

Depending upon the degree of your reaction, a special medication (allergy prep) STARTING THE DAY BEFORE YOUR CT SCAN will need to be prescribed by your doctor or a different exam may be ordered.

### ❖ HOW TO PREPARE FOR A CT SCAN

CT exams ordered with any type of CONTRAST MEDIA/DYE, require a change in your normal diet. You may eat up until 3 hours prior to your exam. **DO NOT EAT ANYTHING DURING THE 3 HOURS BEFORE YOUR TEST, EXCEPT TO TAKE YOUR DAILY PILLS WITH SIPS OF WATER.**

CT exams ordered with RECTAL CONTRAST require 2 FLEETS brand enemas, one night before and one the morning of the scan, to prepare your large bowel for the CONTRAST MEDIA.

IF YOU HAVE A COLOSTOMY, no FLEETS enemas are needed. You will be asked to start drinking contrast the evening before the CT Scan.

Please contact the CT Department (phone number on back of page) for the contrast and instructions.

If you are a DIABETIC and take INSULIN, you may want to ask your doctor to adjust your dosage to any diet changes needed for the CT scan. If you take the drug GLUCOPHAGE, check with your doctor about stopping this drug for 2 days after this exam.

An abnormal x-ray may be the reason you are having your CT scan. (Additional x-rays may be required on the day of your exam to coincide with the CT scan.)

Bring any previous films related to the area being scanned.

### ❖ DAY OF EXAM

Take your daily oral medications with sips of water, unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

Bring a list of your daily medications.

Bring any papers, including the doctor's written order, and all related films needed for the CT scan.

### ❖ PATIENTS TAKING ALLERGY PREP

If you are allergic to IV CONTRAST and will be taking the allergy prep, please remember to:

bring a driver because the Benadryl could make you sleepy.

take a last dose of Prednisone with sips of water only.

If you must change your appointment, please call your doctor's office and:

CENTRAL SCHEDULING AT:

(906) 225-3551

1-800-562-9753, ext. 3551

If you have any questions concerning your CT scan, please call:

MARQUETTE GENERAL HOSPITAL

CT DEPARTMENT

M-F 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(906) 225-3537

or

RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT

(906) 225-3540 or UP TOLL FREE 1-800-562-9753

& ask for the department you desire.

Following the CT scan, you may resume your normal diet and activities.