



Patient Education
Computed Tomography (CT)



Abdomen CT continued

- If x-ray dye is needed for your exam, the technologist will explain the risks to you and ask you to sign a consent form. A small needle is placed in an arm or hand vein that connects to plastic tubing. The contrast is then injected.
- You will be given a final cup of oral prep before getting on the table for your exam.
- While the x-ray dye is injected you will experience a hot sensation, and you may get a metallic taste in your mouth.
- The CT scanner looks like a large square donut with a narrow table in the middle. The x-ray tube and detectors spin inside the scanner as the table moves in and out of the center opening. While the scanner is spinning you will hear a whirling noise. The technologist begins by positioning you on the table. As the exam begins the table will move you in and out of the machine. It is very important that you remain perfectly still during the exam.
- The time in the scanner is approximately five minutes.

Risks and Benefits:

- CT does expose you to radiation in the form of x-rays, but the benefit of an accurate diagnosis far outweighs the risk. The amount of radiation received is about the same as the amount of radiation the average person receives from the environment over a three year period.
- The CTs at WellSpan York Hospital and the WellSpan Imaging Center at Apple Hill have modern technology that allows the technologist to perform your CT scan using approximately half the radiation dose compared to conventional CT scanners.

After the Test:

- If you took the premedication for your exam the technologists will encourage you to remain in the department for approximately 20 minutes after the exam in case a reaction to the x-ray dye should occur.
- If you received dye, the needle will be removed prior to leaving the scanning room.
- You may change into your normal clothing and gather your valuables.
- A staff member will escort you back to the reception area.
- If you were injected with x-ray dye we encourage you to drink plenty of water following your exam. The dye is removed from your system by your kidneys and water helps the process.
- Your exam will be evaluated by a radiologist and the report will be sent to your physician.

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Chest CT continued

- The CT scanner looks like a large square donut with a narrow table in the middle. The x-ray tube and detectors spin inside the scanner as the table moves in and out of the center opening. While the scanner is spinning you will hear a whirling noise. The technologist begins by positioning you on the table. As the exam begins the table will move you in and out of the machine. It is very important that you remain perfectly still during the test.
- The time in the scanner is approximately five minutes.

Risks and Benefits:

- CT does expose the patient to radiation in the form of x-rays, but the benefit of an accurate diagnosis far outweighs the risk. The amount of radiation received is about the same as the amount of radiation the average person receives from the environment over a three year period.
- The CTs at WellSpan York Hospital and the WellSpan Imaging Center at Apple Hill have modern technology that allows the technologist to perform your CT scan using approximately half the radiation dose compared to conventional CT scanners.

After the Test:

- If you took the premedication for your exam, the technologists will encourage you to remain in the department for approximately 20 minutes after the exam in case a reaction to the x-ray dye should occur.
- If you received dye, the needle will be removed prior to leaving the scanning room.
- You may change into your normal clothing and gather your valuables.
- A staff member will escort you back to the reception area.
- If you were injected with x-ray dye we encourage you to drink plenty of water following your exam. The dye is removed from your system by your kidneys and water helps the process.
- Your exam will be evaluated by a radiologist, and the report will be sent to your physician.

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Imaging Patient Education

What you should know about your CT Biopsy.

Purpose:

Computed Tomography (CT) uses special x-ray equipment and a powerful computer to create detailed images of the human body. CT is specifically good at seeing several types of tissue—lung, bones, organs and blood vessels with great clarity. The CT is used to guide a thin needle into a suspected mass or cancerous tissue. A sample of the tissue is then taken and sent to the laboratory for analysis.

Preparation:

- Your physician will give you an order for a blood test. This needs to be done at least five days prior to the day of the biopsy.
- If you are taking a blood thinning medication such as Coumadin, Lovenox or Plavix, you must stop taking this medication five days before the biopsy.
- Prior to your appointment you will be contacted by pre-hospital assessment services to pre-register you for your exam, gather a brief history and give you instructions for before your appointment.
- You should not have anything to eat six hours before your exam, but you can drink clear liquids up to two hours before.
- If you are diabetic, you need to check your insulin the morning of the biopsy and take half your normal dose or consult your physician.
- If you are taking heart medications, long term steroids, narcotics or inhalers you should take your normal dose and bring any medication with you that you might need in an emergency (especially inhalers).
- You will be asked to remove some or all of your clothing and to wear a gown during the exam.
- Please arrive 20 minutes prior to exam.
- It is important to tell a staff member if you are or may be pregnant.

Procedure: What to Expect

- You will be asked to verify your name, date of birth and the exam you will be having performed.
- A technologist or nurse will ask you questions and gather a brief history about your health before the exam.
- Prior to signing the consent form to allow the procedure, the radiologist will talk with you about the exam and answer any questions you may have.
- A blood pressure cuff and heart monitor leads will be attached to your arm and chest before the procedure starts and an IV will be started in one of your arms. You may be given IV fluids during your procedure.



CT Biopsy continued

- The CT scanner looks like a large square donut with a narrow table in the middle. The x-ray tube and detectors spin inside the scanner as the table moves in and out of the center opening. While the scanner is spinning you will hear a whirling noise. The technologist begins by positioning you on the table. As the exam begins the table will move you in and out of the machine. It is very important that you remain perfectly still during the exam.
- The radiologist will prepare an area of skin by cleaning it with an antiseptic solution and draping it with a sterile cloth.
- This area will be numbed first at the skin level then deeper into the tissue. The radiologist will then make a small nick in your skin to allow entry of the needle. You will experience pressure but no sharp pain. Please let the technologist or nurse know if you experience pain.
- The radiologist will begin taking samples of tissue from the area in question. You will hear an audible click from the machine when the sample is taken. The samples of tissue will be sent to the laboratory for interpretation.
- The time in the scanner will be approximately 30 to 60 minutes.

Risks and Benefits:

- CT does expose you to radiation in the form of x-rays, but the benefit of an accurate diagnosis far outweighs the risk. The amount of radiation received is about the same as the amount of radiation the average person receives from the environment over a three year period.
- The CTs at WellSpan York Hospital and the WellSpan Imaging Center at Apple Hill have modern technology that allows the technologist to perform your CT scan using approximately half the radiation dose compared to that of conventional CT scanners.

After the Test:

- You will be placed on a stretcher and then taken to a recovery unit where you will spend six hours at most, with four hours being the average.
- If the biopsy is of the lung, you will have a chest x-ray following the procedure.
- You will need to have someone drive you home and be able to stay with you for 24 hours after the biopsy.

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Head CT continued

- The time in the scanner is approximately five minutes.

Risks and Benefits:

- CT does expose the patient to radiation in the form of x-rays, but the benefit of an accurate diagnosis far outweighs the risk. The amount of radiation received is about the same as the amount of radiation the average person receives from the environment over a three year period.
- The CTs at WellSpan York Hospital and the WellSpan Imaging Center at Apple Hill have modern technology that allows the technologist to perform your CT scan using approximately half the radiation compared to conventional CT scanners.

After the Test:

- If you took the premedication for your exam the technologists will encourage you to remain in the department for approximately 20 minute in case a reaction to the x-ray dye should occur.
- If you received x-ray dye, the needle will be removed prior to leaving the scanning room.
- You may change into your clothing and gather your valuables.
- A staff member will escort you back to the reception area.
- If you were injected with x-ray dye we encourage you to drink plenty of water following your exam. The dye is removed from your system by your kidneys and water helps the process.
- Your exam will be evaluated by a radiologist and the report will be sent to your physician.

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