

## C.T. ABDOMEN

### Purpose:

To obtain cross-sectional images of the abdomen.

### How long will this procedure take?

Allow 10 to 40 minutes for this study.

### Preparation:

The evening prior to your exam, between 7 PM and 10 PM, you will drink ½ bottle of the oral contrast preparation. On the morning of the examination, about an hour prior to the scheduled time of your exam, you will drink the remaining half of the oral contrast preparation. This contrast will differentiate the bowel from other abdominal tissue and organs. After starting this prep, you will need to stay on clear liquids until after your scan has been completed. The technologist will ask you to drink a barium mixture immediately prior to the examination.

### ***IMPORTANT NOTES!***

1. If you have a history of an intravenous contrast reaction, please bring this to the attention of your physician immediately so that he may order pre-medication which will be taken one to two days prior to the CT study.
2. If you are diabetic and take Metformin Hydrochloride (Glucovance or Glucophage), the manufacturer recommends that it be stopped at the time of the contrast injection. It should not be restarted until after 48 hours. You must check with your physician to assure normal renal function BEFORE restarting the Metformin.
3. Although it is preferable that you have the required labs (BUN, Creatinine) a day or two prior to the exam, if it must be done on the same day, they should be drawn at least an hour before the scheduled exam time in order to allow time for results retrieval, patient consent, gowning, etc.
4. Physicians/nursing staff:
  - A. Due to 3<sup>rd</sup> party payor considerations, a CT of the Abdomen is a *separate and different* examination than CT of the Pelvis.
  - B. Need chart for each house patient.

### Procedure:

The CT technologist will ask for information regarding any pertinent medical history or symptoms in order to determine the best method to perform your examination. You may be asked to read and sign an informed consent for the use of IV contrast. You will be asked to lie flat on the table which will move slowly into a large “doughnut” shaped machine. The technologist may ask you to hold your breath for up to 30 seconds. Many images will be obtained at various levels.

### After the examination:

The radiologist will study your films and dictate a report, which will be sent to your physician within 24 hours.