

What is a Computerized Tomography (CT) Scan?

OVERVIEW

You may be familiar with different diagnostic procedures like X-rays or MRIs, but CT scans are slightly different. If you've ever heard of a CT scan, you know how important it can be in diagnosing illness and injury. But what exactly is a CT scan, and how does it work? In this article, we'll answer all your questions about CT scans, including what they are, how they're performed, and their benefits and risks.



What Is A CT Scan, And What Are Its Benefits?

CT scans are a type of medical imaging that uses X-rays to create detailed pictures of the inside of the body. CT scans are often used to diagnose cancer, as they can show whether there are any abnormal growths in the body. CT scans can also diagnose other conditions, such as infections, blood clots, and bone fractures. CT scans are quick and painless, and they usually do not require any special preparation.

How Do CT Scans Work?

CT scans work by sending X-rays through the body. The X-rays are then detected by a computer, which creates images of the inside of the body. CT scans can be performed with or without contrast. Contrast is a substance that helps to improve the quality of the images. CT scans with contrast use iodine-based contrast, ingested orally or injected into the body before the scan. CT scans without contrast do not require any special preparation.

What Are CT Scans Used For?

CT scans are used to diagnose various conditions, including cancer, infections, blood clots, and bone fractures. CT scans can also assess the severity of an injury, plan and direct therapeutic or interventional operations, and keep track of the therapy's success.

How Long Does a CT Scan Take?

CT scans usually take between 15 and 30 minutes. CT scan appointments are typically scheduled in advance, and you will be asked to arrive at the hospital or imaging center a few minutes early.

How to Prepare For A CT Scan?

You do not need to do anything special to prepare for a CT scan. CT scans are quick and painless, and they do not require any special preparation. However, if you are allergic to iodine, let your doctor know before the scan. CT scans with contrast use iodine-based contrast, injected into the body before the scan. CT scans without contrast do not require any special preparation.

What to Expect During A CT Scan?

During a CT scan, you will lie on a table. The table will slide into the CT scanner, a large machine that looks like a doughnut. The CT scanner will send X-rays through your body. You will hear buzzing and clicking noises as the CT scanner takes pictures. The CT scan usually takes 15 to 30 minutes.

Do You Get The Results Of A CT Scan Immediately?

The CT scan images will be reviewed by a radiologist, a doctor specializing in medical imaging. The radiologist will then send a report to your doctor to discuss the results with you. CT scan results are usually available within 24 hours.

What Are The Risks Of CT Scans?

CT scans use X-rays, which can be harmful to the body if they are used too frequently. However, CT scans are considered very safe when performed for medical purposes. The radiation exposure from a CT scan is low, and the benefits of the scan outweigh the risks. The use of contrast infrequently can lead to an allergic reaction or an acute injury to the kidney.

How Much Does A CT Scan Cost?

The cost of a CT scan depends on the type of scan, the number of pictures taken, and the hospital or imaging center where the scan is performed. CT scans typically cost between \$250 and \$1000.

A CT scan is a painless and quick procedure that can provide your doctor with invaluable information about your health. If you have any questions about whether or not a CT scan is right for you, be sure to ask your doctor. Remember, a CT scan is a simple procedure that could save your life.