



The Oregon Clinic

Diagnostic Imaging Services

Computerized Tomography (CT)

We are proud to offer a state of the art CT scanner that is capable of obtaining up to 64 high resolution images per second. In addition to superb quality, our new scanner is perfect for advanced applications such as CT angiography, pulmonary angiography, urologic exams (including urograms), and tumor imaging. With our scanner, more detailed images are produced within seconds, resulting in earlier detection and a more accurate diagnosis. We offer exceptional quality and flexibility in a convenient, comfortable, and caring environment.

What is Computerized Tomography (CT) and How Does It Work?

Computerized Tomography (CT or CAT Scan) is a quick, safe, and painless x-ray procedure combining many images with the aid of a computer to generate cross sectional images of the body. The CT scanner is a large square machine with a large hole in the center. You will be asked to lie still on the table and to hold your breath while the table moves in and out through the center of the hole; during this time, the x-ray tube rotates around the body to produce images. You may hear the machine making clicking and whirring noises during the table movement. The CT Technologist is able to see and hear you at all times.

What Is It Used For?

A CT scan is used to define normal and abnormal structures in the body and to assist in accurately placing and guiding instruments and treatment.

Preparing For the Ultrasound Exam

- Please arrive 15 minutes early. You will be asked to fill out a form that is specific for this exam.
- Upon arrival, our receptionist will greet you and introduce you to our technologist.
- If you have had any allergic reaction to x-ray dye (intravenous contrast) or severe allergies, please notify your physician and The Oregon Clinic Imaging Department immediately.
- Inform us if you have any of the following conditions: kidney disease, asthma, or diabetes.

- For CT exams of the abdomen and pelvis, you may be instructed not to eat or drink anything for 4 hours except for oral contrast within 1-2 hours before the exam. Oral contrast will highlight the digestive tract on the CT images.
- In order to make you as comfortable as possible, we will ask you to change your clothes into scrubs that we provide and to remove hairpins, jewelry (including body piercings and watches), eyeglasses, hearing aids, and removable dental work, depending on the area being scanned.
- A locker will be provided for your clothing and personal items.
- If you are pregnant or think you might be, you should notify your physician and our staff immediately.

During the Exam

A certified CT Technologist will prepare you for the exam by explaining and answering any questions that you might have before, during, and after the exam.

You will be asked to lie on a cushioned table and made as comfortable as possible with the use of pillows, sponges, and a warm blanket. The table will move through the CT machine. Depending on the type of CT exam, you may receive an intravenous (IV) injection of contrast (x-ray dye). IV contrast may improve the clarity of the images. To ensure your safety, The Oregon Clinic Imaging Department uses only the safest type of IV contrast medium available. A CT technologist is available at all times to monitor the progress of your CT exam.



The entire CT exam usually takes about 20 minutes with the actual scanning time less than 1 minute. Some exams may take longer and each exam is customized specifically for you.

After the Exam

Once the exam is complete, you may eat and resume normal activity. Fluid intake is encouraged. If contrast is given, oral and/or IV, during the exam it will pass naturally through the body usually within 1 day.

All of the images are available immediately for your doctor to review and a board certified specialized radiologist will study them and issue a report within 24 hours.