



Your Guide To: CT Scans



CIS Houma
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What is a CT scan?

Computed tomography (CT) is a method of body imaging. It helps medical professionals to view the soft tissues of the body such as organs and blood vessels by using a dye (contrast) to highlight them.

How do I prepare for a CT scan?

Do not eat for three hours prior to the CT scan and drink plenty of fluids.

Some scans require that you drink or eat barium before leaving home for your appointment. The type of barium that you will ingest depends upon the type of scan you will have. It is important to follow any instructions about when and where to pick up the barium and when you should eat or drink it. Some scans also dictate that you drink lots of water before your appointment.

You may be given medication to take the night before the scan to counteract any allergic reaction that you may have to the dye used during the procedure.

What should I wear?

When you dress for your scan appointment, wear clothes without metal zippers, snaps, clips, etc. For the ladies, sports bras are acceptable because they have no clasps. Elastic waist pants without zippers or snaps are another example of the preferred attire for a CT scan. If you arrive wearing clothing that has metal fasteners, you will be asked to change into a hospital gown. It is best to leave all jewelry at home because you will be required to remove it before the procedure.

What if I've had kidney problems in the past?

Your physician may want you to have IV fluids prior to your CT exam if you've had kidney problems in the past, or if your kidney blood work is elevated. This usually takes approximately six hours. You are allowed to bring food and drink with you to consume during this time, and you are encouraged to drink plenty of fluids.

What takes place during the procedure?

You will be asked to lie on a narrow table that slides into the center of the scanner.

Follow the technician's instructions carefully. Movement can blur the image, but the CT

technology that CIS uses is the fastest available. CIS was the first in Louisiana to have this technology that requires you to lie very still for only a short time. You will periodically be asked to hold your breath during the test.

The table will move slowly into the scanner as images are produced of your body. The scan is a painless procedure that can take anywhere from 10 to 20 minutes.

If you have any questions or concerns, ask your doctor or health care professional. We would like your experience with us to be a positive one!

What can I expect when I arrive for the scan?

It may be necessary for you to drink or eat barium when you arrive for the scan. Some types of CT scan require that you drink large amounts of water to swell your stomach. This allows certain areas of the body to be viewed more easily.

An IV catheter will be inserted into a vein in your arm or hand so that the dye can be injected into your body. You will probably feel a warm flush feeling and experience a metallic-like taste in your mouth. You may have a false urinating sensation. Occasionally, nausea and vomiting may occur. All of these are normal and very mild sensations that are experienced by most people having CT scans. These are NOT allergic reactions.

What if I am allergic to the dye?

Only a small amount of patients are allergic to the dye used in a CT scan. The most common allergic reactions are hives, itching and redness. Shortness of breath and swelling are more severe reactions.

As stated earlier, you may be given medication the night before the scan to lessen the severity of any allergic reaction.

However, please note: If you have had these reactions in the past, or if any of these side effects occur during or after the dye is injected, tell the medical personnel immediately. There are medications that can be given to diminish the severity of allergic reactions.

If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, please inform the CIS staff.



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The mission of CIS is to provide you with the highest quality care available. For your convenience, CIS offers a 64-slice CT scanner with a highly trained and experienced team of technologists to perform your CT exam. However, you may choose to have your scan performed elsewhere.

Please note that the CT service locations listed below are not affiliated with CIS.

HOUMA AREA CT SERVICE LOCATIONS	LAFAYETTE AREA CT SERVICE LOCATIONS
Houma Medical Imaging Center 316 Civic Center Blvd. Houma, LA 70360 (985) 274-0550	Dauterive Hospital 600 N. Lewis Ave. New Iberia, LA 70563 (337) 365-7311
Lady of the Sea Hospital 200 West 134 Place Cut Off, LA 70345 (985) 632-6401	Doctor's Hospital of Opelousas 3983 I 49 South Service Rd. Opelousas, LA 70570 (337) 948-2100
Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center 1978 Industrial Blvd. Houma, LA 70363 (985) 873-2200	Heart Hospital of Lafayette 1105 Kaliste Saloom Rd. Lafayette, LA 70508 (337) 521-1000
Ochsner St. Anne General Hospital 4608 Highway 1 Raceland, LA 70394 (985) 537-6841	Iberia Medical Center 2315 East Main St. New Iberia, LA 70563 (337) 364-0441
Physician Surgical Specialty Hospital 218 Corporate Dr. Houma, LA 70360 (985) 853-1390	Lafayette General Medical Center 1214 Coolidge St. Lafayette, LA 70503 (337) 289-7991
Teche Regional Medical Center 1125 Marguerite Street Morgan City, LA 70380 (985) 384-2200	Lane Diagnostic Center 6500 Main St. Zachary, LA 70791 (225) 658-4778
Terrebonne General Medical Center (Main) 8166 Main St. Houma, LA 70360 (985) 873-4141	Lane Regional Medical Center 6300 Main St. Zachary, LA 70791 (225) 658-2000
Terrebonne General Medical Center (CT) 8120 Main St. Houma, LA 70360 (985) 850-6050	Opelousas General Hospital 539 E. Prudhomme St. Opelousas, LA 70570 (337) 948-3011
Thibodaux Regional Medical Center 602 North Acadia Road Thibodaux, LA 70301 (985) 447-5500	Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center 611 St. Landry St. Lafayette, LA 70506 (337) 289-2000
	Regional Medical Center of Acadiana 2810 Ambassador Caffery Lafayette, LA 70506 (337) 981-2949
	Southpark Community Hospital 314 Youngsville Highway Lafayette, LA 70508 (337) 769-2080
	University Medical Center 2390 West Congress Lafayette, LA 70506 (337) 261-6000