CT | computed tomography

What happens during your exam

You will be asked to lie on a cushioned, moveable table, and positioned comfortably with pillows to maintain the proper position for the exam. The table will move slowly through the machine for the CT exam.

You will hear slight buzzing, clicking and whirring sounds as the machine captures the images. For the best quality images, you need to be as still as possible during the exam. You may be asked to hold your breath for approximately 20 seconds while the images are acquired.

The imaging technologist will be outside of the room and is immediately available at all times. You will be in full view of the technologist by means of a window.

Though the scanning time takes between 5-10 minutes to complete, the entire exam will take 20-30 minutes.

Depending on the type of information requested by your healthcare provider, contrast material may be used. The contrast material is injected through an intravenous line (IV). Additionally, you may be required to drink oral contrast prior to your exam.

Additional CT services

Our CT scanners are able to perform advanced imaging applications to aid in the detection of abnormalities and changes in the body’s tissues, organs and structures.

CTA (CT Angiography)

CTA is a specialized CT technique that obtains enhanced images of the arteries of the brain, carotid arteries, aorta, renal arteries and extremity vessels. CTA requires the use of IV contrast material to obtain the images.

CT Arteriography

CT arteriography is a CT exam specifically used to image the small and large bowel. CT arteriography is performed to assess for the presence and extent of Crohn’s disease and/or inflammatory bowel disease. If an abnormality is detected, important information such as the type of abnormality, location and severity can be further characterized.

You should arrive at Suburban Imaging one hour and 15 minutes prior to your exam to drink special contrast material in timed intervals.

A clear liquid diet for 12 hours prior to your scheduled appointment time is required. For this reason, most patients prefer to schedule this exam in the morning.

CT Arthrogram

A CT arthrogram is a two-part procedure performed to aid in the diagnosis of subtle abnormalities in the joints of the extremities such as the shoulder, elbow, wrist, hip, knee and ankle.

During the first portion of a CT arthrogram, contrast is injected into the joint space with a needle under x-ray guidance. The contrast material serves to illuminate the joint space during imaging. Next, you will have a CT exam to take more images of the joint.

What is a CT?

Computed Tomography (CT) – sometimes called a CAT scan – is a safe, technologically advanced medical imaging procedure.

CT scans combine special x-ray equipment with sophisticated computer systems to produce multiple digital images of the inside of the body. It provides valuable information about certain medical conditions and shows greater detail than conventional x-ray exams.

The images are studied and analyzed by a subspecialty board-certified radiologist, a doctor who has extensive training and expertise in medical imaging.

When medically recommended, the benefits of a CT exam outweigh the risks. To learn more about the radiation safety measures in place at Suburban Imaging, please visit our website at www.suburbanimaging.com.

How you should prepare

• Arrive 15 minutes early to complete registration.

• Bring with you:
  – Previous x-rays
  – Your appointment form
  – Your insurance card and a valid photo I.D.

• Let us know about any of the following:
  – Allergies
  – Asthma
  – Kidney problems
  – Diabetes
  – Pregnancy - known or possible
  – Previous reactions to iodinated contrast (IVP or CT dye)
  – Recent chemotherapy (within 30 days)

• If your exam requires oral contrast, please follow the instructions given by your healthcare provider.

After your exam

You may resume regular activities immediately after the exam. If you received IV contrast material, you will be observed for a short period of time.

Your images will be interpreted by a board-certified radiologist (medical doctor) specializing in musculoskeletal imaging, body imaging or neuroradiology depending on the type of exam performed. The findings will be sent to your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will contact you to discuss the results.

Cardiac Scoring/HeartView Scan

A HeartView scan is a non-invasive CT technique used to detect and measure the amount of calcium in the arteries of the heart. Calcium accumulation is an indicator of heart disease.

Calcium deposits can be detected before they get large enough to clog the artery. This is a valuable screening test used to identify a patient who may have plaque in the blood vessels, but has no symptoms. Using the information obtained from the scan, the radiologist calculates the areas of calcification and uses this number to score the test into categories of risk for coronary artery disease.

CT Colonography (Virtual Colonoscopy)

Virtual Colonoscopy is a CT technique used in detecting cancer and polyps in the colon (large intestine). High-resolution, three-dimensional images of the colon are obtained, allowing the radiologist to evaluate the entire length of the colon. The radiologist also evaluates the surrounding organs for abnormalities.
welcome to suburban imaging

Our team of subspecialty-trained radiologists, qualified imaging technologists and compassionate professional staff come together to provide a continuum of care for you and your healthcare provider. Your comfort is our main concern. When you are confident and at ease, we’ll get the best results for you and your healthcare provider. Our team makes it easy to schedule appointments, to help you prepare for your exam, and ensures you a comfortable and quality experience.

We are conveniently located throughout the Twin Cities area to provide easy access for your imaging needs: Blaine • Burnsville • Coon Rapids • Maple Grove • Northwest • Southdale • The Breast Center

We offer the following services:
- MRI • CT • PET/CT • Ultrasound
- Spinal & Joint Injections • Nuclear Medicine
- Vascular Center • X-ray • Bone Density
- Mammography • Breast Diagnostic Services

your scheduled appointment

Date: ___________________ Time: ________________

Special instructions: ____________________________________________________________

Location: [ ] Blaine [ ] Burnsville [ ] Coon Rapids [ ] Maple Grove

scheduling line: 763.792.1999

[ ] Burnsville [ ] Southdale

scheduling line: 952.893.0000

For detailed directions, visit our website at www.suburbanimaging.com

Blaine: 763.225.6500
Blaine Medical Center, Suite 130
11855 Ulysses Street NE | Blaine, MN 55434

Burnsville: 952.898.2333
Burnsville Medical Center, Suite 204
14000 Nicollet Ave. S. | Burnsville, MN 55337

Coon Rapids: 763.792.1900
8990 Springbrook Drive, Suite 140 | Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Maple Grove: 763.416.7888
Arbor Lakes Medical Building, Suite 310
12000 Elm Creek Blvd. | Maple Grove, MN 55369

Southdale: 952.405.2777
Southdale Medical Center, Suite 125
6545 France Ave. S. | Edina, MN 55435

Blaine: 952.893.0000
The Breast Center

4680 Excelsior Blvd
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