



What is CT ABDOMEN / PELVIS / KIDNEY / LIVER / UROGRAM?

It is an imaging test that is used to help detect abnormalities in the abdomen such as liver, kidneys, bowel and other internal organs. It is often done to diagnose the cause of pain in the abdomen and pelvic region, detect lesions, injuries, and infections of the abdominal organs.



Why is a CT Abdomen / Pelvis / Kidney / Liver / Urogram performed?

Your doctor may order a scan to look for certain conditions such as:

- Abscesses or infections such as appendicitis
- Pancreatitis or liver cirrhosis
- Lesions or injuries to abdominal organs such as the liver or kidneys
- Urinary tract disorders
- Fractures in the pelvis
- Kidney and bladder stones

What is Intravenous (IV) Contrast?

To ensure defined visualisation of the internal organs, outline blood vessels and body tissues on the scan, contrast is given intravenously via an injection. It also helps to better detect any abnormalities present. A plastic cannula will be inserted into one of your veins in your arm by our nurses and the contrast will then be injected.

How does the IV contrast feel like?

A warm sensation may be felt in your body upon injection as well as a metallic taste in the mouth. However, this is temporary and should disappear within a few minutes. **If you experience it during the scan, please do not move and continue to follow the instructions from the radiographer.**

What should I take note of before the scan?

For patients who are asthmatic, you are advised to bring along your inhaler.

- ✔ *If you are pregnant*, please inform our staff. It is advisable to consult your doctor for an alternative test.

Depending on the type of CT scan your doctor has ordered, you may be given an oral contrast to drink prior to the scan or intravenous contrast. The contrast is used to outline your stomach and bowels to ensure defined visualisation of the organs. It also helps to better detect any abnormalities present. It will take approximately 45 minutes after oral contrast has been consumed before your scan can begin as it will take time for it to reach your bowels.

Please let our staff know if you have had any form of contrast allergies before.

For CT scans with Contrast injection:

- ✔ *If you have any kidney problems*, your doctor may advise you to perform the scan without contrast.
- ✔ *If you are 65 years old and above*, please provide us with your creatinine report done within the past 6 months on the day of scan.
- ✔ *For diabetics*, if you are on Metformin/ Glucophage, please stop medication on the day of the exam and resume taking it 2 days after the scan.
- ✔ *If you have any history of drug or food allergies*, please inform our staff. You may be administered with hydrocortisone, a steroid to manage/ minimise allergy reactions.

What can I expect during my CT scan?

- The CT scan will generate images of your body's organs from multiple angles, to ensure images are captured accurately, it is essential for you to remain still throughout the scan.
- You may be required to hold your breath for a few seconds during the scan. Our radiographer will provide you the breathing instructions which is important for you to follow.
- The scan usually lasts for 10 to 15 minutes.

What should I do after the scan?

- Do drink plenty of water after the scan to help the body expel the contrast naturally.
- If you are taking medication for diabetes Eg: Metformin, medication must be withheld for 48 hours after receiving contrast.

You should let your doctor know if you experience any of the following symptoms post scan:



Itching and red spots on the skin



Swollen mouth or eyes



Difficulty breathing

Our specialised radiologists will review the findings and send them to your doctor. Your doctor may review the radiology report as a starting point to plan your treatment.



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