

CT (Computed Tomography): Chest Patient Information

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Welcome to VCU Health CT Imaging. We are in the main hospital 3rd floor, 1200 East Marshall Street. Our hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 9:30 pm. Advanced scheduling is required for all CT exams. Please review the following information about your test. Please call (804) 628-3580 to schedule your test or if you have any questions about your CT exam.

What is it?

A CT (Computed Tomography) scan is a type of specialized x-ray. The scan can show cross-sectional images of a specified area of the body.

Why are you having this test?

You are having this study to establish presence or absence, nature or extent of disease affecting the chest region. Chest CT is used to:

- Examine abnormalities found on conventional chest x-rays.
- Help diagnose the causes of clinical signs or symptoms of disease of the chest, such as cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, or fever.
- Detect and evaluate the extent of tumors that arise in the chest, or tumors that have spread there from other parts of the body.
- Assess whether tumors are responding to treatment.
- Help plan radiation therapy.
- Evaluate injury to the chest, including the heart, blood vessels, lungs, ribs and spine.

Preparing for the test

- No solid foods 4 hours prior test.
- May have full liquid diet up until exam.
- Bring a picture ID and insurance information.

- Bring current list of medications (including over the counter, herbal, vitamins, supplements, etc.) and current allergies.
- Please arrive 30 minutes before your appointment time.

What to expect during the test

- This study will take about 1-2 hours.
- IV will be placed for contrast administration.
- Lay Flat on CT table. Table will move through scanner while patient holds completely still and may have to hold breath for few seconds.

After Care information

- You may resume normal activity, eating and drinking after exam unless otherwise specified by your physician.
- The Barium contrast can turn your stool a gray or white color for 48-72 hours. It may also cause constipation (for soft tissue only).
- Unless fluids are restricted by the doctor, the patient should drink fluids (more than normal) to help the contrast move out of their system.

Follow up care after the procedure

- Results should be available 1-2 business days on the patient portal and to your ordering physician.
- For results: please contact the physician that ordered your test

Contact information if questions or concerns

Any questions: please contact us at (804) 828-5555 and ask for a radiology technologist. If after hours please call (804) 828-3728.