

CT (Computed Tomography): Abdomen & Pelvis Patient Information

CT (Computed Tomography): Abdomen & Pelvis

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 Abdomen & Pelvis region. Some of the reasons your doctor may want you to have an Abdomen & Pelvis CT scan include:

- Abdominal pain
- A mass in your abdomen that you can feel
- Kidney stones (to check for size and location of the stones)
- Unexplained weight loss
- Infections
- Inflammation of the intestines
- Injuries following trauma
- Recent cancer diagnosis
- Check for intestinal obstruction

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.