

## CT Scan of Spine

### ***What to expect when you arrive:***

Please arrive 10-15 minutes prior to scheduled time. You will be asked to fill out a short history sheet. Please list all recent illnesses or medical conditions, and if you have a history of heart disease, asthma, diabetes, kidney disease, allergies to medications such as Iodine. This will help us perform the correct exam according to your history. You may have an IV started in order to give you the IV Contrast if needed.

### ***What is a CT Scan?***

CT scanning—sometimes called CAT scanning—is a noninvasive, painless medical test that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions. Sometimes during the exam you may be asked to hold your breath, please do so in the same way each time. CT imaging uses special x-ray equipment to produce multiple images or pictures of the inside of the body and a computer to join them together in cross-sectional views of the area being studied. The images can then be examined on a computer monitor or printed. CT scans of internal organs, bone, soft tissue and blood vessels provide greater clarity than conventional x-ray exams.

### ***How to prepare for your procedure:***

If you are to be given contrast you will need not to eat 3 hrs prior to exam, but you can drink clear liquids. Dress according to exam being done, no jewelry, metal objects etc in the area to be examined. (Bras without metal, pants without zippers, no belts, no metal buttons)

Women should always inform their physician or technologist if there is any possibility that they are pregnant.

### ***Recovery/Home:***

You may eat and drink immediately following your test. You need to drink plenty of liquids to flush the IV Contrast out of your body. The exam results cannot be discussed by the Technologist, but only by the ordering physician. The radiologist will interpret the exam and send the results to your physician's office.

**Patient Information**



Northeast Georgia Health System

Imaging Services

[www.nghsimaging.com](http://www.nghsimaging.com)