



آغا خان یونیورسٹی ہسپتال، کراچی  
The Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi.

**Radiology Department  
(Computed Tomography Section)  
APPOINTMENT FOR CT SCAN**

**What is a CT scan?**

CT is the abbreviation of Computed tomography. CT scan takes a picture of a specific part of your body, such as the head, chest, abdomen or spine. You will be laid down on a table and the part of your body that is to be scanned will be positioned in the middle of the large, doughnut-shaped scanner. During the scan, a thin beam of x-ray is focused on this part. You will hear a clicking noise as the scanner moves around you to take your images. These images may detect conditions that do not show up on conventional x-ray. The results help determine the best course of treatment for you. This procedure may take 05 to 15 minutes or depending upon the procedure. The test is painless. If intravenous contrast material is used, the patient may feel a hot flushed sensation. This is normal and will pass within a few seconds. Patient will be asked to stay still and may be asked to hold the breath for short periods.

**Why CT Scans are Important?**

A CT scan is very helpful for enabling x-ray doctor to see cross sectional views of internal human organs. Doctor will be enabling to see the cause of any abnormal symptoms or to rule out different diseases and to find out the mode of treatment. A CT scan provides critical information to the x-ray doctor more quickly as compared to other diagnostic tests.

**What Should I Eat Or Drink?**

Three hours fasting is required if procedure is performed with contrast.

**Can I Take My Medication Before CT Scan?**

Exceptional cases like diabetic patients will have to stop all such medicines that contain metformin 24hrs prior to the CT scan procedure and 48hrs afterward. Such explanation will be given at the time of taking appointment by front desk staff with the consultation of x-ray doctor. Patients having asthma or allergies to any drug/ food need prior preparation with our standard of oral steroids drug regime.

**Will I Be Injected?**

CT scan technologist will find it out that IV (intravenous) contrast is required for a particular CT scan or not. IV contrast is very helpful in highlighting internal organs and vessels of human body as otherwise it is difficult to visualize. If there is need to get an IV contrast to be injected then it will be injected at arm or hand prior to the procedure.

**What Will Happen When IV Contrast Will Be Given?**

There will be a feeling of warm sensation and for few minutes patient will feel metallic taste.

**Will I Have To Drink Water Or Oral Contrast And Why?**

This is the requirement for only abdominal or pelvis area scanning. Drinking of water or oral contrast enables the x-ray doctor to see the patient's bowel clearly. Oral contrast is made by iodine mixed with water. For an excellent scanning one & half liter of oral contrast should be consumed by the patient 1-2 hour prior to the CT scan.

**How Long A CT Scan Will Take?**

This depends upon the type of CT scan advised to the patient. An average CT scan procedure time is 15 to 20 minutes.

**Other Pre Procedure Instructions:**

CT scan procedure cannot be performed on pregnant patients. However, in special circumstances procedure can be performed with the consent of referring physician after taking necessary safety precautions.

You are requested to:

- Report for examination on time. Delay may lead to rescheduling of your examination.
- Bring any of your previous examination films for comparison.
- Bring your doctor's prescription on the day of examination

**Post Procedure Instructions:**

Patient have to drink 6-8 glass of water. It will help excreting the dye from the body effectively. Normal activities can be resumed immediately after the CT scan.

**How Will I Know About The Result?**

The report of the procedure will be ready in the evening of next working day after the procedure and will also sent to your physician at the day of your appointment in the clinic.

For more details please contact Radiology department on 021-34862047

**Note:**

You are requested to please:

- Bring your doctor's prescription and previous medical/radiology record on the day of procedure.
- Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your appointment for registration and other formalities. Late arrival may lead to delay/rescheduling of your examination.
- Patients requiring urgent attention will be given priority. This may result in delay in starting your procedure. Your cooperation is requested.
- Patients coming from the emergency room should be given priority
- **For Women: If there is possibility that you are pregnant, please inform your physician before the procedure, as the procedure may have to be postponed or cancelled.**

Test Required	Asthma	Yes	No
	Allergies	Yes	No
	Diabetes	Yes	No
Fasting For -----Hrs.	Cardiac Problem	Yes	No