

Head CT

A **Head CT** (computed tomogram) is a test using a special x-ray machine and computer. This test creates pictures of thin slices or segments of your brain, which helps diagnose changes in your brain. The length of CT scans can vary, but will take several minutes.

To Prepare:

- Do not eat or drink anything for two hours before the test.
- Be prepared to be in the radiology department for 30 minutes.

During the Test:

- A registered technologist will help you onto the CT table and position you for the test. When you are in position it is very important that you hold your head very still until the test is complete.
- In some cases, a special medicine, called contrast medicine, will be injected through a small needle or IV line. This medicine allows certain structures to show up on the CT scan. You may get a warm feeling or a metallic taste in your mouth when the contrast medicine is injected.

After the Test:

- You will be able to eat and drink
- If you had contrast medicine, drink 6 to 8 (8 ounce) cups of liquid to flush the contrast medicine out of your body.

If you are allergic to contrast medicine or think you might be, inform your doctor's office as you may need a different test or you may need a prescription medicine the day before the test to decrease your risk of an allergic reaction.

If you have a history of kidney disease, please let the nurse or technician know before you receive contrast medicine. Your doctor will determine if it is safe for you to receive contrast

Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.