

CT Urography

Appointment Information

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

About

CT urography is performed after intravenous contrast material is used to obtain images of the urinary tract. Urography images are used to evaluate issues or detect abnormalities in portions of the urinary tract, including the kidneys, bladder and ureters, including:

- Hematuria (blood in urine)
- Kidney or bladder stones
- Cancers of the urinary tract
- Your technologist will begin by positioning you on the CT examination table, usually lying flat on your back or possibly on your side or stomach. You may be asked to change positions during portions of the examination.

If contrast material is used, a nurse or technologist will inject the contrast through an IV line placed in the hand or arm.

Next, the table will move quickly through the scanner to determine the correct starting position for the scans. Then, the table will move slowly through the machine as the actual CT scanning is performed.

You may be asked to hold your breath during the scanning. Any motion, whether breathing or body movements, can lead to artifacts on the images.

When the examination is completed, you will be asked to wait until your technologist verifies that the images are of high enough quality for accurate interpretation. Your intravenous line will be removed.

CT exams are generally painless, fast and easy.

Preparations

If your physician has ordered a CT urography exam, you should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing to your exam. You may be given a gown to wear during the procedure.

Metal objects including jewelry, eyeglasses, dentures and hairpins may affect the CT images and should be left at home or removed prior to your exam. You may also be asked to remove hearing aids and removable dental work.

In order to distend your urinary bladder, you may be asked to drink water prior to the examination, and also not to urinate until after the scan is complete. However, guidelines about eating and drinking before a CT exam vary with the specific exam and also with the facility.

You may be asked not to eat or drink anything for several hours before the exam, especially if a contrast material will be used.

You should inform your radiologist or technologist of any medications you are taking and if you have any allergies. If you have a known allergy to contrast material, or "dye," inform your doctor. Based on your allergic history, your doctor may decide to provide medications to reduce the risk of allergic reaction or decide to cancel your exam.

Also inform your radiologist of any recent illnesses or other medical conditions, and if you have a history of heart disease (particularly congestive heart failure or hypertension), asthma, diabetes, kidney disease, prior organ transplantation, use of chronic NSAIDs (e.g., Motrin), anti-rejection medication or certain antibiotics. Any of these conditions or medications may increase the risk of an unusual adverse effect following the administration of contrast for CT urography.

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