

Bone & Muscle CT Scan

Appointment Information

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

About

Bone and muscle (musculoskeletal) CT scans are performed to evaluate abnormalities, pain and fractures in the bones. Bone and muscle CT scanning is a noninvasive medical test that combines special x-ray equipment with sophisticated computers to produce multiple images of the muscles and bones.

Bone and muscle CT scans are offered for the following areas:

- Neck
- Spine

A bone and muscle body CT scan provides images in greater clarity and reveal more details than regular x-ray exams. A bone and muscle CT scan can assist radiologists in examining trauma to the bones or muscles and musculoskeletal disorders.

Prior to your bone and muscle (musculoskeletal) CT scan, the technologist will begin by positioning you on the CT examination table, usually lying flat on your back or less commonly, on your side or on your stomach.

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. Depending on the type of CT scan, the machine may make several passes.

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 the technologist verifies that the images are of high enough quality for accurate interpretation. The CT scanning is usually completed within 30 minutes.

Preparations

You should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing to your bone and muscle (musculoskeletal) CT scan. You may be given a gown to wear during the procedure. Metal objects including jewelry, eyeglasses, dentures and hairpins may affect the CT images. You may be asked to remove hearing aids and removable dental work. You may be asked to remove any piercings if possible.

You should inform your radiologist if you have a pacemaker or any metal implants. You should also inform your radiologist of any allergies, medications, medical conditions and recent illnesses. You may be asked not to eat or drink anything for a few hours before your bone and muscle body CT scan.

Women should always inform their radiologist if there is any possibility that they may be pregnant.

You may be asked not to eat or drink anything for a few hours beforehand, especially if a contrast material will be used in your exam.