

Abdomen and Pelvis CT Scan

Appointment Information

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

About

Abdomen and pelvis CT scans to evaluate the cause of abdominal or pelvic pain of the internal organs, small bowel and colon.

During the abdomen and pelvis CT scan, the technologist begins 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 examination is usually completed within 30 minutes.

Preparations

You should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing to your abdomen and pelvis 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 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.

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. You should inform your radiologist of all medications you are taking and if you have any allergies.

If contrast material is used, it will be swallowed or injected through an intravenous line (IV) depending on the type of examination.

Also inform your doctor of any recent illnesses or other medical conditions and whether you have a history of heart disease, asthma, diabetes, kidney disease or thyroid problems. Any of these conditions may increase the risk of an unusual adverse effect.

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