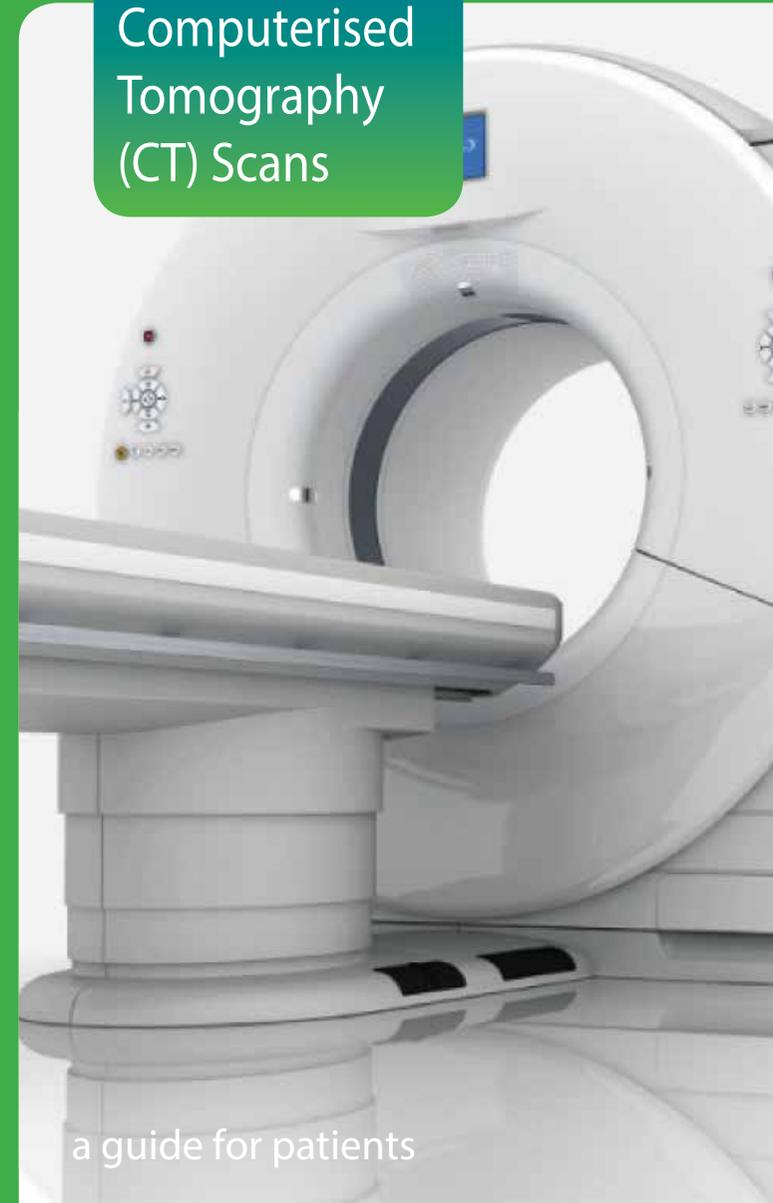




Computerised Tomography (CT) Scans



a guide for patients

Your Appointment

Date
Time
Special Instructions

Fees

At the time of making your appointment, our staff will advise you of any approximate fees payable on the day of your examination.

Most diagnostic imaging procedures are eligible for a Medicare Rebate.

Please ensure you bring the following to your appointment:

- Medicare Card
- Healthcare Card
- Pension Card
- Previous films or scans relating to this procedure
- Workers' Compensation
- Third Party

Central

The Avenue Radiology and MRI	9916 1200
Bridge Road Imaging	9242 4888

Northern

Brunswick Diagnostic Imaging	9383 6266
Epping Diagnostic Imaging	9408 2222
Glenroy Diagnostic Imaging	9300 1000
Healthcare Imaging Bundoora	8467 0800
Northern Hospital Radiology	8405 9600

Eastern

Blackburn South Radiology	9878 6255
Glen Waverley Medical Imaging	9802 2055
Healthcare Imaging Knox	9210 7100
Healthcare Imaging Ringwood	8804 4030
Healthcare Imaging Kew	9817 1331

South Eastern

South Eastern Radiology	9562 3433
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Regional

Colac Radiology	5232 5162
Wimmera Radiology	5381 9236
Warrnambool Radiology	5563 1504

For further information please go to our website:
www.healthcareimaging.com.au



Healthcare Imaging Services

Computed Tomography (CT)

Computed Tomography (CT), sometimes referred to as CAT scanning, is a fast and painless diagnostic imaging technique, ideal for imaging the brain, chest, abdomen, spine and extremities. CT is also used in the detection of vascular disease and to guide a biopsy needle during a procedure or pain relief injections.

How does the CT scanner work?

The CT scanner is a large machine with a hole in the centre.

You are asked to lie on the examination table which will gradually move up and through the opening of the CT scanner. At the same time the X-ray system within the CT scanner rotates around you, taking detailed cross-sectional pictures of your body. The computer processes the images to form a complete picture of the area, which can even be displayed as a 3D image.

A Radiologist (a doctor specialising in CT and other diagnostic imaging techniques), interprets the images obtained and issues a medical diagnostic report, which is then forwarded to your referring doctor.

During the CT scan

You are required to lie on the CT table and keep very still during the examination. You will be alone in the room during the procedure, however, the CT Radiographer will remain in constant visual and voice contact with you.

For optimum results and depending on the examination, you may be asked to hold your breath for short periods, or to stop swallowing. This is done to ensure the picture will be in sharp focus. The examination may last from 1–15 minutes.

Preparation

The preparation will vary according to the part of the body being examined. Oral or intravenous (IV) contrast media are used to show certain organs and vessels clearly and precisely.

Before administering any contrast material, the CT Radiographer will ask you a series of questions about allergies, medications, diabetes, asthma and heart, kidney and thyroid disease, to determine your suitability to receive contrast media.

Oral contrast helps the Radiologist see the stomach, small bowel and colon. This may need to be taken 1–2 hours prior to your examination. Some patients find the taste mildly unpleasant, but can easily tolerate it.

IV or intravenous contrast may be necessary and involves an injection into a vein, usually in the arm. This helps define the blood vessels and kidneys and highlight the appearance of various tissues. You may feel a flush of heat or a metallic taste in the back of the mouth. This sensation is normal and passes quickly.

Who interprets the results and how do I obtain them?

A Radiologist analyses the images from your examination and issues a signed report with his/her interpretation to your referring doctor. Results are usually available within 24 hours. You should contact your doctor for your results.

At most of our practices technology allows for reports to be distributed via secure Email, and for your images to be available on CD rather than X-ray film.

If you have an appointment with your referring doctor immediately after your scan, please advise our staff upon arrival.

Urgent results are telephoned or faxed to your referring doctor as soon as they become available.



Are X-rays harmful?

Any radiation dose is cumulative and has a small risk. Modern equipment will ensure that the radiation dose is as low as possible. The amount of radiation you receive is minimised for patient safety.

Important:

- Please inform staff if you are pregnant.
- If you are a diabetic and are on Metformin you should contact the relevant diagnostic imaging centre as soon as possible, prior to your appointment.
- Please provide a list of ANY medications you are taking.
- If you do not understand English, please bring someone to interpret for you.
- Please bring any previous relevant diagnostic imaging films (X-rays) and/or results to your appointment.

For further information and appointments, please contact your local Healthcare Imaging centre.