

## ***What is Computer Axial Tomography (CT or CAT scan)?***

Computed Axial Tomography (CT or CAT scan) is an extremely sensitive diagnostic imaging machine which produces thin cross-sectional images of the human body, almost like the slices in a loaf of bread. The CT scanner takes multiple (16-32) simultaneous pictures or slices during an individual scan. These images are created with the help of a computer and are capable of depicting various internal body parts in great detail, enhancing the healthcare provider's ability to easily diagnose a variety of medical conditions.

### **Why is the test done?**

Physicians order this test in order to diagnose conditions such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, pain, fractures and vascular problems in an efficient and extremely timely manner.

### **How do I prepare for this test?**

- Many CT procedures require no preparation.
- Some procedures require the restrictions of certain medications.
- Some procedures require you to drink an agent which outlines your intestines.
- Some procedures require you not to eat or drink prior to your procedure.

Our talented and experienced customer service staff will work closely with you prior to your procedure to enhance your procedure, answer any questions you might have, and provide you with an appointment time of your choice.

### **How long will it take to complete the test?**

You can expect to spend approximately 20 minutes from start to finish for your procedure. Each procedure will be interpreted by a local Board Certified Radiologist the same day the procedure is performed.

### **What can I expect during the test?**

Our experienced friendly staff will personally escort you to the CT suite. Depending upon the procedure, you may be asked to change into a comfortable gown or warm robe! Again depending on the procedure, you may be asked to drink an agent which will highlight your stomach and/or intestines. Some procedures also require the use of an IV injectable contrast agent. All procedures will be closely monitored by our technologists, radiology RN, and radiologist. Actual scan times are usually less than 30 seconds and are performed on a comfortable scan table in a warm, clean, out-patient setting.