

CT Scan

Your doctor has recommended a CT scan at Silverton Hospital Diagnostic Imaging. The following information will help to put your mind at ease and prepare you for your examination.

What Is It? Computed Tomography, (CT or “CAT” scan) combines X-ray technology and computers, allowing physicians the ability to view “slices” of internal anatomy without the need for surgery.

Is It Safe? CT is a safe and effective diagnostic procedure. CT technology has been cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and more than 35 million scans are performed in this nation annually.

Before Your CT Scan

- Please bring previous imaging study results (MRI, CT, x-rays) such as reports, films or CDs, if available.
- You may be asked to avoid food or liquids for one or more hours before the procedure.
- Pregnant women should avoid this procedure, particularly during the first trimester.
- Please inform your doctor beforehand if you have any allergies, especially an allergy to iodine-based products or shellfish.
- Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing.
- We will call you prior to your appointment to provide specific instructions.

What To Expect

- The CT scanner looks like a large doughnut shaped device with a padded table attached to it.
- Depending on the exam a solution called “contrast” may be administered, usually with an IV, to help improve the accuracy of the procedure.
- You will be asked to minimize any body movement during the scan.
- You may hear a humming noise and notice a slight vibration or movement of the table.
- The entire procedure will take approximately 15-45 minutes.

After Your CT Scan

- Your CT scan will be read by our team of expert radiologists
- A final report will be sent to your doctor, who can then discuss the results with you in detail.