



CT Scan Instructions

CT scan refers to computed tomography; it is also called a CAT scan. In a CT scan, a beam of X-rays moves in a circle. This provides different views of the same organ or tissue. It gives greater detail than a standard X-ray exam. A computer processes the information and shows the images on a monitor.

It is very important that your child be very still during the CT scan. Much like a camera, any motion causes blurred images in CT. Therefore, if a child is unable follow instructions or stay still, then he or she will need to be sedated during the exam.

Procedure

Your child will lie on a narrow table that slides into the center of the scanner. Your child may need to lie on his or her stomach, back or side. Then, X-ray images will be taken of your child. The procedure will take about 15 minutes or up to about three hours if your child must be sedated.

CT Scan Preparation

- For children who can stay still and follow instructions:
 - No preparation is necessary for this examination.
- For children who are too young or unable to follow instructions or stay still that may need sedation:
 - Breast fed infants and toddlers: no breast feeding four hours prior to scheduled examination.
 - All children: no solid food or milk eight hours prior to the scheduled examination.
Your child may have clear liquids such as water, tea, Gatorade®, Kool-Aid®, apple juice and white grape juice up to two hours prior to the procedure. No carbonated sodas.
 - Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children requires at least two hours of patient monitoring after the last dose of sedation medicine is given. Please expect to stay two to three hours in the radiology department if your child needs sedation.

Additional Information

- Give all medicine at the regular time unless otherwise directed by the radiology department or your child's doctor.
- Please call (214) 559-7450 if you need to cancel or reschedule your child's appointment or if you have any questions or concerns about this procedure.