

Computerized Tomography (CT)

A **Computerized Tomography** (CT) scanner is a special kind of X-ray machine. Instead of sending out a single X-ray through your body as with ordinary X-rays, several beams are sent simultaneously from different angles.

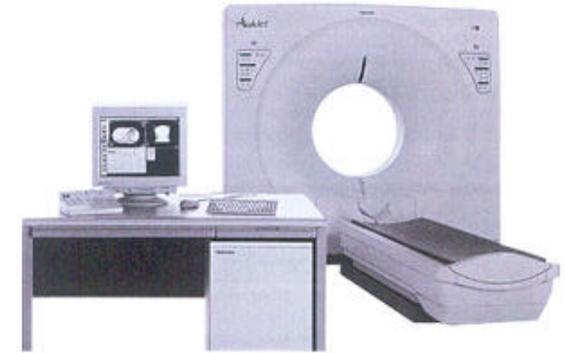
How does a CT scanner work? A CT scanner uses X-rays. The CT machine takes a lot of pictures of your body from different angles. These pictures are fed into a computer. The computer puts them together to give a series of cross sections or 'slices' through the part of the body being scanned. A very detailed picture of the inside of the body can be built up in this way. A CT scanning machine is a large machine that is shaped rather like a doughnut. There is a padded table that you lie on. The table can slide backwards and forwards through the hole of the doughnut. The pictures are taken as you move through the machine.

Thank you for choosing Twin County Regional Hospital to perform your CT scan. We appreciate your patronage and hope that you will use our hospital for all your health care needs. If we can be of any assistance, please call us at 276-236-1680.

200 Hospital Drive
Galax, Virginia 24333



CT Scan (Computerized Tomography)



For assistance
or information,
please call
TCRH Radiology Department

276-236-1680



While you are waiting-

- ❖ Please use the restroom prior to being called back for your scan. The restroom is located through the door to the left of the front desk.
- ❖ Let the person at the front desk know if you have allergies to shellfish, seafood, iodine, latex, or tape prior to going back for your scan.
- ❖ If you are pregnant or suspect you are pregnant, please let the front desk know.
- ❖ Remove all jewelry. You may leave your valuables with your family or we can provide a locked box for you.
- ❖ You may be asked to drink a thick, chalky liquid called barium, depending on what body part is to be examined. If you drink this liquid, you must wait 1 hour before the scan can be completed. This liquid helps your body part show up better on the scan. You will be kept as comfortable as possible during your delay.
- ❖ Only the patient will be allowed to come back to the scanning room. Minors can have a parent or guardian with them.
- ❖ Please keep in mind that our scanning tables have a 400-pound weight limit. If you are over this weight or of an exceptionally large stature, we

may need to refer you to another facility for your scan.

During the scan-

- ❖ When your technologist takes you into the department, he\she will review the procedure with you and answer any questions. You must sign consent in order to proceed with the scan. If you have already signed consent, this will be reviewed with you prior to your scan.
- ❖ It may be necessary for the technologist to start an IV. This is in order to administer a contrast solution that will make the scan clearer. This solution may make you feel warm when it's administered.
- ❖ You may be asked to drink some water before the scan.
- ❖ Depending on what body part is to be scanned, you may need to remove clothing.
- ❖ The technologist may tape small markers to your skin before the scan.
- ❖ Laboratory test may be necessary during the course of your scan. If this is needed, you will be directed to the lab before entering the scanner.
- ❖ Positioning is important during the scan. You may be asked to lie flat, to lie on your stomach, or be placed in a position that will allow a clear picture. Sometimes this positioning can be uncomfortable. We will

attempt to make you as comfortable as possible.

- ❖ The CT scanning room must be kept very cool in order for the machinery to function properly. We will provide you with blankets and strive to make your comfort a priority.
- ❖ The scan should take 10-15 minutes. You must lie still, and you may be asked to hold your breath. Please let your tech know if you have any issues with claustrophobia, or the fear of closed in spaces.

After the scan-

- ❖ A radiologist will read your CT scan. The technologist who helped perform your scan cannot give you any results. The results will be sent to your physician who will review the scan with you. Results are usually available within 24 hours.
- ❖ If you need a copy of your scan to take with you to an appointment, please allow at least one hour for the scan to be printed.
- ❖ If you drank the thick, chalky liquid before your scan, drink plenty of water to help your body get rid of it. You may notice your bowel movements may look chalky for a couple of days.
- ❖ If you are taking Glucophage (Metformin) for diabetes, this medicine is not to be taken for 48 hours following your scan.