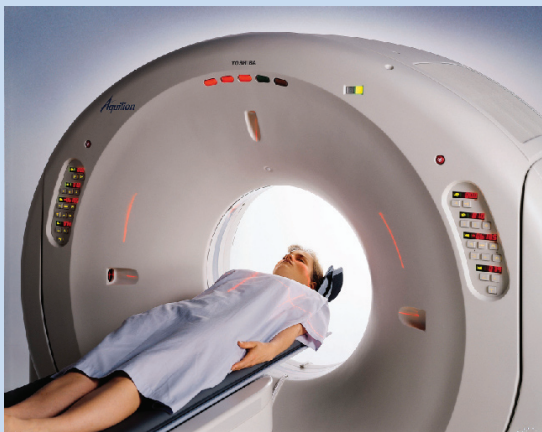


## What to Expect

- Scanning takes just seconds, though total exam time may vary.
- For most CT exams, you will be asked to change into a gown. Metal objects such as hairpins and jewelry can obstruct the x-rays.
- It may be necessary to drink barium and/or have an IV contrast injection.
- On the moving table, you'll be surrounded by a donut-shaped "gantry" – this houses the x-ray tube that generates the invisible x-ray beam.
- During scanning, you'll be required to lie very still and hold your breath for just a few seconds.



## Preparation Required

You may be asked to refrain from eating or drinking for four hours prior to the exam. Women should always inform their doctor or x-ray technologist if there is any possibility that they are pregnant.

Diabetic patients taking glucophage, glucovance, metformin or Advantame should consult their physician.

Thank you for choosing Alliance Community Hospital to perform your CT examination. We realize you may have questions regarding your upcoming exam and hope this information will help explain the procedure to you.

If you have any further questions, feel free to call our Imaging Department at 330-596-7700.

To make an appointment, call Centralized Scheduling at 330-596-7187.

To access Imaging exam instructions on the web, go to the Patient Services page on the ACH web site at [www.achosp.org](http://www.achosp.org) and click on the Imaging link.



200 East State Street  
Alliance, Ohio 44601  
330-596-6000  
[www.achosp.org](http://www.achosp.org)



## Computed Tomography (CT)



## What is a CT Scan?

Computed Tomography (CT or CAT scan) is a way of looking inside your body using a special camera. The images produced are cross-sectional, like the slices in a loaf of bread. During a CT exam the scanner takes multiple cross-sectional pictures. With the help of a computer, these individual images are reconstructed into an actual picture of various internal body parts. A CT scan provides much greater detail than the standard x-ray films and greatly enhances the doctor's ability to diagnose a medical condition.

## Why a CT scan?

In cancer detection, computed tomography is used to scan for abnormal masses which may be malignant tumors. CT scans can show the size and shape of a tumor, its precise location in the body, and whether it's solid or hollow. In addition to cancer detection, CT scans have many other uses, including the detection of abscesses, strokes, head injuries and bleeding inside the skull.

**Alliance Community Hospital is one of the few area hospitals performing CT of the heart, aorta, coronary arteries, and blood vessels which is a fast, accurate tool for diagnosing coronary artery disease and heart problems.**

## How Does It Work?



The CT scanner contains a large donut-shaped ring that your body slowly passes through on a moveable table. As you pass through the ring, the scanner takes a complete 360 degree image of you that is sent to a computer. Then the mechanical table

moves a small distance, less than half-an-inch, positioning you for the next picture. To make a clearer image of certain parts of your body, some CT scans require the use of contrast material, which is a substance showing up as white on the X-Ray. Two types of contrast materials used are barium, which you usually drink, and iodine, which is usually injected through an I.V.

## RISKS

CT does involve exposure to radiation in the form of x-ray, but the benefit of an accurate diagnosis far outweighs the risk.

The risk of serious allergic reaction to iodine-containing contrast material is rare, and the Imaging Department at Alliance Community Hospital is well equipped to handle all situations.

## Patient Comfort

- Viewing a CT scan, an experienced radiologist can diagnose many causes of a patient's symptoms.
- CT scanning can identify both normal and abnormal structures, making it a useful tool to guide radiotherapy, needle biopsies and other minimally invasive procedures.
- CT Angiography can be used to examine blood vessels in many key areas of the body including the brain, kidneys, pelvis and the arteries serving the lungs. The procedure is able to detect narrowing of arteries in time for corrective surgery to be done.
- The weight limit is 450 lbs.