WHAT IS COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY?
Computed Tomography, also known as CT, is a sophisticated imaging technique that can show anatomy at different levels within the body. During CT imaging, the x-ray source within the machine rotates around the patient. Each rotation produces a single cross-sectional "slice" like the slices in a loaf of bread. CT allows physicians to see a horizontal piece of the body just as if you were taking a slice of bread out of a loaf.

WHY IS A CT EXAM ORDERED?
CT scans are used to diagnose many conditions. They may be used to examine the head to check for bleeding, tumors, blood clots or signs of stroke. In other parts of the body, CT may be used to tell whether a growth is solid or fluid-filled, determine an organ's size and shape and evaluate many different diseases.

IS CT SAFE?
CT uses radiation to create the images of the body. Your safety is of paramount importance so we have invested in technology that uses the lowest possible radiation dose necessary to produce the highest quality diagnostic images.

HOW WILL MY CT EXAM BEGIN?
A member of your care team will escort you to the clinical area to begin preparing you for your exam. We are performing many different exams in our center so you may notice others being called back before you for a different type exam. If you wait more than 15 minutes, please let our registrar know and we will check on the status of your exam. For your safety, if you are pregnant or suspect that you may be pregnant, please inform the technologist.

DOES MY CT EXAM REQUIRE CONTRAST?
A contrast agent is used in some exams to highlight organs and make them appear brighter and more distinct on the image. Not all exams require the use of contrast but some patients may receive oral contrast to drink, contrast administered by IV (intravenous access), or both. Our nursing staff will assist you in preparing for your CT exam and they will inform you if you will be receiving contrast.

If you are receiving oral contrast, your appointment will have two parts:
A member of the nursing team will give you the oral contrast drink upon your arrival into the sub-waiting area. Additional drinks will be given 30 minutes apart so the contrast agent can flow through your system and be in the right area of your body for your scan. We care about your comfort so please let a member of our staff know if you are cold so we can give you a warm blanket. When we are ready to perform your scan, the technologist will give you your last drink and will take you back to the scanner when you have completed the drink. At this time, the second phase of your appointment will begin.

If you are receiving IV contrast, your appointment will have two parts:
If an IV is needed for your scan, a nurse will escort you into a nursing room to have your IV started. Please let your nurse know if you have an intravenous port. The nurse will review your history, explain the procedure and give you an opportunity to ask questions. Following the insertion of your IV, the first part of your appointment will be complete. If you have another appointment today and it would be helpful to maintain the already accessed IV, please inform the nurse and your IV can be left in to avoid having another IV inserted at your next appointment.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT DURING MY EXAM?
When the CT technologist escorts you into the CT room, the second phase of your appointment will begin. The technologist will position you on the scanning table. We want you to be comfortable on the table so please inform the technologist if you would like a fresh warm blanket or are in any discomfort. Once you are comfortably and properly positioned, the technologist will not be in the room during the scan, but will be able to see you and you will be able to communicate through an intercom system. As the x-ray tube rotates around you within the machine, you will hear a whirring sound. The exam table may move slightly to reposition you for each section of the scan. You should remain as still as possible and for certain scans you may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds. Even the slightest movement can blur the image so it is important to remain still. Your exam may have multiple sequences but it should only take 10-20 minutes to complete.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY EXAM?
The technologist will come into the exam room and will assist you in getting off of the table. Your IV, if you have one, will be removed. For your safety, you may be asked to wait for 15-20 minutes for post-examination monitoring. Your technologist will let you know when the exam is complete and it is okay for you to leave the Imaging Center.
Welcome to UVA Imaging!

We are pleased that you have chosen us to perform your imaging exam. It is our privilege to take care of you today. We care about your comfort, safety and privacy so please let us know if there is anything that we can do to assist you.

At UVA Imaging, each of our CT Technologists have advanced level certification and are registered with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. In addition, our center has achieved accreditation with the American College of Radiology. You can be confident in the expertise of our staff and the quality of the images that we produce.

Every study that is performed at UVA Imaging is interpreted by one of UVA’s sub-specialty trained radiologists. You deserve their experience and expertise because their acutely trained eyes catch what others might miss. When the radiologist completes the review of your images, the results of your exam will be sent directly to your referring provider. Your results will also be available in MyChart seven days after they have been completed. If you would like access to your record, please visit mychart.uvahealthsystem.virginia.edu.

UVA Imaging
Scheduling Phone: 434-243-0321
General Information: 434-243-9198
www.uvaimaging.com