

Patient Considerations for CT

Please answer the questions below to determine which preparations apply to you. Please note **you may qualify for more than one preparation section**. Contact our patient care specialists with any questions.

1. *Was your exam ordered “with contrast” or “with and without contrast”?*
Please see the **B. IV Contrast Exam Preparations** below. If your exam is non-contrast only, please refer to the **C. Non-Contrast Exam Preparations** below.
2. *Did your doctor order a CT of the Abdomen or Pelvis (or both)?*
Oral contrast will not be required if your physician is checking for hematuria (blood in the urine), kidney stones or hydronephrosis. For all other diagnoses, please review section below entitled D. Oral Contrast Exam Preparations.
3. *Do you meet any of the criteria below?*
 - a. Are you over the age of 60?
 - b. Are you diabetic?
 - c. Do you have a history of kidney disease, transplant, or nephrectomy?
 - d. Are you on dialysis?
 - e. Are you taking Metformin or Glucophage?If yes to any of the above, please review our **A. Lab Requirements** below.
4. *Are you pregnant?*
Centrelake is unable to perform CT scans on pregnant women. Please consult with your physician for alternate solutions.

A. Centrelake Lab Requirements

We will require a recent blood test containing B.U.N. and Creatinine levels. Blood test must have been performed **within 30 days** from the date of your appointment. Patients on dialysis having an intravenous contrast exam are strongly advised to be dialyzed on the same day of injection and no later than 24 hours from the time of injection. Please coordinate with your dialysis center as needed. Centrelake will request confirmation of your dialysis appointment on the day of your exam.

B. IV Contrast Exam Preparations

Before the Exam

Please do not eat during the 4 hours prior to your exam. You are asked to please drink 32 oz. of water the evening prior to your exam and (32 oz.) of water the morning of your exam.

During the Exam

You are advised not to wear any jewelry or watches to your exam. It is best to wear comfortable clothing without any zippers or metals would be best. You may be asked to wear a gown that will be provided for you,

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if needed. You will be asked to remove hairpins, jewelry, watches, eyeglasses, hearing aids and any removable dental work.

Contrast agents contain iodine that may cause allergic reactions in some patients. Please inform your technologist or patient care specialist if you have any allergies, **especially** if you are allergic to iodine. Patients clear of iodine allergies will receive a contrast injection by vein.

Exam duration usually ranges from **15-60** minutes.

After the Exam: Please hydrate after exam if you had IV contrast. You may leave immediately after your exam and return to your normal activities. It may be beneficial to have a friend or family member join you for your scheduled appointment to transport you to/from our facility if necessary.

C. Non-IV Contrast Exam Preparations

Before the Exam

No preparations are required for non-IV contrast exams. If you are scheduled for an abdomen or pelvic CT, please see the Oral Contrast Exam Preparations below, if needed.

During the Exam

You are advised not to wear any jewelry or watches to your exam. It is best to wear comfortable clothing without any zippers or metals. You may be asked to wear a gown that will be provided for you. You will be asked to remove hairpins, jewelry, watches, eyeglasses, hearing aids and any removable dental work.

Exam duration usually ranges from **15-60** minutes.

After the Exam

You may leave immediately after your exam and return to your normal activities. It may be beneficial to have a friend or family member join you for your scheduled appointment to transport you to/from our facility if necessary.

D. Oral Contrast Exam Preparations

Before the Exam

Please do not eat 4 hours prior to your exam. You are asked to drink 32 oz. of water the evening prior to your exam and (32 oz.) of water the morning of your exam.

For patients opting for Barium Oral contrast, please drink the first bottle the night before your exam. The second bottle must be **FINISHED** one (1) hour prior to your scheduled exam time.

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Patients opting for gastrografin, or barium will receive instructions upon arrival. **CT Abdomen patients are asked to arrive 1.5 hours early.** Patients having a CT Abdomen & Pelvis or CT Pelvis are required to arrive **2 hours early**.