

CT ANGIOGRAPHY - RUNOFF

WHAT IS THIS PROCEDURE?

This study evaluates the aorta and its branches as it flows down through the body. CT images are obtained from mid-chest down to the feet. I.V. contrast is administered to the patient to highlight the vessels. The patient is instructed to lie very still and not move their legs during the scan. Total test time is approximately 20 minutes. Patients should bring previous films or related exams to their appointment. This information is very important and will expedite the report of the diagnosis back to the referring physician. The whole procedure typically takes about 30 minutes.

CONTRAST MATERIAL

A special dye called a contrast material is needed for some CT scans, to help highlight the areas of your body being examined. The contrast material blocks X-rays and appears white on images, which can help emphasize blood vessels, intestines or other structures. Please inform the staff if you have decreased kidney function or kidney problems. Your referring doctor may have requested you have lab work done prior to exam.

Contrast material will be given to you by injection.

DURING THE CT SCAN

CT scanners are shaped like a large doughnut standing on its side. You lie on a narrow, motorized table that slides through the opening into a tunnel. Straps and pillows may be used to help you stay in position. During a head scan, the table may be fitted with a special cradle that holds your head still.

While the table moves you into the scanner, detectors and the X-ray tube rotate around you. Each rotation yields several images of thin slices of your body. You may hear buzzing, clicking and whirring noises.

A technologist in a separate room can see and hear you. You will be able to communicate with the technologist via intercom. The technologist may ask you to hold your breath at certain points to avoid blurring the images.

Depending on which part of your body is being scanned, you may be asked to:

- Take off some or all of your clothing and wear a hospital gown
- Remove metal objects, such as a belt, jewelry, dentures and eyeglasses, which might interfere with image results
- Refrain from eating or drinking for a few hours before your scan

Contrast agents can be injected through a vein in your arm to help your gallbladder, urinary tract, liver or blood vessels stand out on the images. You may experience a feeling of warmth during the injection or a metallic taste in your mouth.

You will also receive a sublingual spray of nitroglycerin spray (under the tongue). This helps to dilate the arteries and veins so the doctors can get a clear picture of your anatomy.

AFTER THE CT SCAN

After the exam you can return to your normal routine. After the scan, you'll likely be told to drink lots of fluids to help your kidneys remove the contrast material from your body.



