

CAT Scan



[CAT Scan Prep Instructions](#)



[Contrast Reaction Instructions](#)



[CAT Scan Survey](#)

What is a CAT Scan?

CAT Scan (CT Scan- Computerized axial tomography) creates a three-dimensional image of the body from x-rays that have been taken from several different angles. It creates cross-sectional images of several structures in the body and is used to detect abnormalities such as: infections, tumors, cysts, blood clots and fractures. These abnormalities can be found in internal structures like the organs, muscles, bones and soft tissue. CAT (CT) Scan is a non-invasive procedure, which uses a small degree of radiation and is considered safe.

During the procedure, the patient lies on a movable table, which is slipped into a doughnut-shaped CAT (CT) Scanner (computed tomography). The procedure usually takes from 20-30 minutes to perform and preliminary results are typically available within 24 hours.

The CAT Scans (GE High Speed) at Urology Associates are performed by our Certified Licensed Radiological Technologist and assisted by our Nurse Practitioner who administers the contrast agent to the patient. The studies are read by a Board Certified, fellowship-trained radiologist (physicians who specialize in imaging procedures), who has extensive training reading and interpreting CAT Scan results.



Why Do Urologists Use CAT Scans?

CAT Scans are often used at Urology Associates to examine structures in the abdomen and pelvis (reproductive organs, liver, pancreas, gallbladder, spleen and intestines). CAT Scans are a diagnostic tool that urologists use to detect and diagnose: recurrent urinary tract infections, sources of blood in the urine (hematuria), kidney stones, renal cysts and masses. Moreover, it can help urologists rule out prostate, bladder and renal cancers.

How Do I Prepare for a CAT Scan?

Prior to the CAT Scan, patients must change into a hospital gown that will not interfere with the x-ray images and remove all metallic materials (i.e., clothing and snaps, jewelry, and zippers).

An iodine-based dye or barium solution called a contrast agent may be given prior to CAT Scan to allow the radiologist to see structures and organs more easily. Contrast agents are usually given through a vein (IV), by injection and/or taken orally. The dye may cause stomach discomfort, therefore, patients are usually instructed not to eat or drink for a few

hours prior to CAT Scan. In addition, patients in need of an oral contrast may be required to drink the solution 1-2 hours prior to the CAT Scan of the abdomen or pelvis.

Please review our [CAT Scan Prep Instructions](#), our [CAT Scan Questionnaire](#), and [Contrast Reaction Instructions](#).