

Smoke Free

Please remember that all Central Health sites are smoke-free.



Please do not smoke while visiting Central Health sites.

Thank you!



► Diagnostic Imaging

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Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre,
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CH-DI 001

Diagnostic Imaging



Central Health

Having a C.T. scan



Diagnostic Imaging - C.T. Scan or C.A.T. Scan (Computed Axial Tomography)

This is a specialized x-ray examination of the internal organs and body parts. It is a safe and painless examination performed by a nationally certified technologist.

The scan produces a series of images and can detect many conditions that do not show on conventional x-rays. During the scan, a thin beam of x-rays is focused on a specific part of your body such as head, chest, liver, spleen, pancreas, kidneys, spine, etc. The x-ray tube moves rapidly around this site, enabling multiple images to be made from different angles to create a cross-sectional picture (similar to slicing a loaf of bread). The x-ray beam is picked up by electronic detectors which record the information and feed it to the computers. The computers analyze the information and construct an image on a T.V. screen or an x-ray film.

Preparation and procedure

For some examinations you will not be able to have solid food, only fluids for several hours before the examination.

The examination may take up to 30 minutes, but for some examinations you may be required to be in the department for up to one hour before the examination starts. You may be required to drink juice mixed with x-ray solution before your examination.

You will be required to lie on a table similar to an x-ray table which moves you through a large machine similar to a huge doughnut.

You will have to follow special breathing instructions while on the table.

Sometimes you will have a small needle in your arm, similar to having a blood test, through which a special x-ray dye is injected.

After the examination you may leave as you normally would.

Please note: *If you have any further questions, please contact your healthcare provider, radiologist or technologist at the site where your test is scheduled before your examination.*