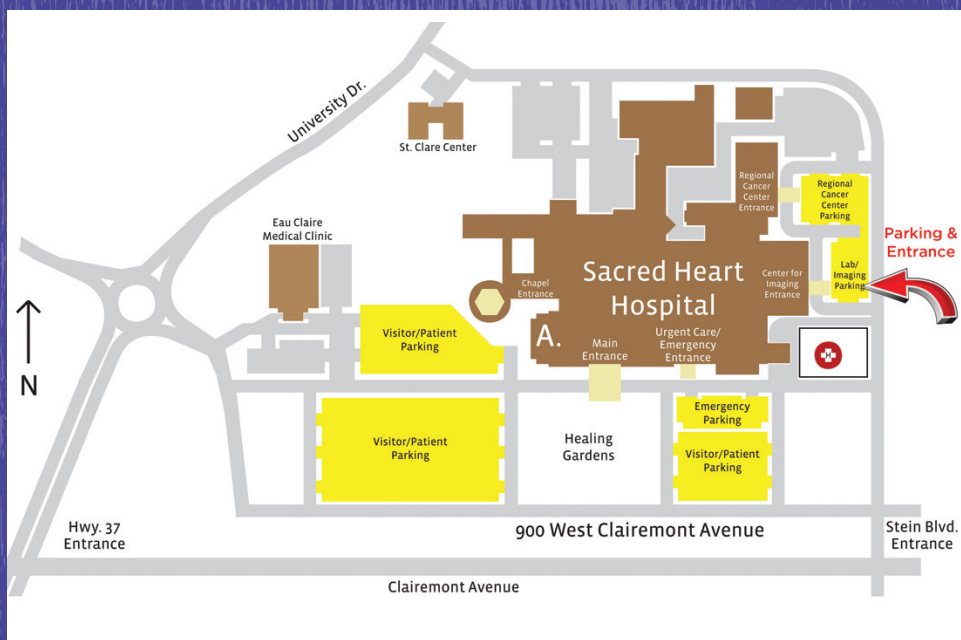


If you have any questions, you can call Radiology  
at 715-717-6985 or you may call your doctor's office.



# Patient Guide

# CT

## Computerized Tomography



**Sacred Heart  
Hospital**

AN AFFILIATE OF HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

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 **Sacred Heart  
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## CT Scan (Computerized Tomography)

is an easy, safe test that uses x-rays and computers to get detailed pictures (images) of the inside of your body from many different angles. CT scans can take pictures of body organs like the liver, kidneys, lungs or heart. It can also look at the spine, bones, and blood vessels.

### Before the Test

Some CT scans need to use a special dye (contrast), so certain areas can be seen more clearly.

Contrast can be given in different ways, depending on the type of CT scan. It can be given through a vein (IV) in your hand or arm. Or you may drink contrast liquid before the exam (you may need to pick up the contrast a few hours before your scheduled exam in order to drink it). The contrast liquid may taste chalky, although some are flavored to make it taste a little better.

Before you are given contrast, you will be asked if you have asthma or diabetes, or if you've had allergies or previous reactions to contrast. It is also important to tell us before the exam if you are pregnant.

### During the Test

When you arrive, your test will be explained to you. You can ask any questions you have about the test, its risks, or how it will be done. Once your questions have been answered, you may be asked to put on a hospital gown for the scan. The person doing the test (technologist) will take you into the CT room. During the test, you will lie down on a table attached to the CT scanner, which is a large, doughnut-shaped machine. The part of your body to be scanned will slide into the round opening of the scanner, and the scanner will move around your body. The table will also move while the scanner takes pictures. It is very important to lie still during the test. The technologist will run the scanner and watch you from another room. Although you will be alone in the room during the scan, we will be able to see, hear and speak with you at all times. The scan usually takes about 30 minutes. Most people find the CT scan to be painless, fast and easy.

### After the Procedure

Unless you receive special instructions, you will be able to eat and drink immediately following your exam. Results of your exam will be available from your physician in 2-3 days.