

## Your CT Scan

Patient care and diagnosis have significantly improved with the growing use of computed tomography (CT). CT scanning blends the traditional technology of X-rays with the latest computer innovations.

Using a series of X-ray beams, the CT scanner creates cross-sectional images. A computer then reconstructs these “slices” to produce a 3-D image. The result is a picture with great detail than traditional X-rays. And better information means more accurate diagnosis from your doctor.

### Types of CT Scans

CT scans are often used in place of other invasive, time-consuming examinations.

Common types of CT scans include:

- Abdomen
- Chest
- Head
- Pelvis
- Spine



*CT scan machine at KCHSD*

No matter which scan you have, your doctor will use the highest resolution CT images to make the most accurate diagnosis possible.

### During the Exam

A CT exam is a quick, painless procedure. The scanner will acquire the images in just a few seconds while you are comfortably lying on the patient table. Ask your doctor about total exam duration, since exam times will vary.

- You may be asked to wear a gown for image clarity
- You may be asked to remove jewelry and other metallic items for image clarity
- You will be asked to remain still and hold your breath during the few seconds the scanner captures the image
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After your trouble-free exam, all normal activities may be resumed, unless otherwise directed by your doctor.

Information provided by Toshiba

### **What to Expect During your CT Exam**

Your doctor is interested in seeing specific body areas. Therefore, in some CT exams, a contrast media is used to make these areas appear more visible.

You may feel a slight warming sensation when the contrast medium is administered with a small IV.

Consult with your physician prior to your CT exam if you have an allergic reaction to iodine which is used in the contrast medium.

### **Preparations**

Speak with your doctor about preparing for your CT exam.

- Let your doctor know if you pregnant, since pregnant women should avoid exposure from X-rays used in the CT and other medical exams
- For abdominal exams, your doctor may ask you to refrain from eating or drinking directly before your exam for best clarity
- Discuss your medications with your physician
- Let your doctor know if you have allergic reactions to iodine or conditions such as asthma



Miles the Denver Bronco's mascot is having a CT scan!