### CAT Scan

**COMPUTERIZED AXIAL TOMOGRAPHY SCAN**

- **Brain CAT (with IV contrast):** Testing time is about 30 minutes.
- **Chest CAT (with IV contrast):** Testing time is about 40 minutes.
- **Neck CAT Soft Tissue (with IV contrast):** Testing time is about 40 minutes.
- **Renal CAT (first without contrast, possibly followed by with contrast):**
  - Testing time is about 40 minutes.
- **CAT Angiography – Brain (CTA-Brain):**
  - Testing time is about 40 minutes.
- **Cat Angiography – Leg (CTA-Pelvic with leg runoff):** Testing time is about 40 minutes.
- **CAT Angiography – Neck (CTA-Neck):**
  - Testing time is about 40 minutes.
- **CAT Angiography- Abd (CTA-Abd):**
  - Testing time is about 40 minutes.

### Preparation:

Have nothing to eat for four hours before the exam. You may have up to 16 ounces of clear liquids: water, tea, juice, or broth, but no coffee. Plan to arrive 15 minutes early for registration. These exams require an IV. No oral contrast will be given.

### Virtual Colonoscopy

**Preparation:**
This exam requires a restricted diet prior to the exam and a bowel prep you will receive from your doctor. Testing time is about 40 minutes.

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**Where is the test performed?**
Your CAT scan will be performed in the Imaging Services Department of Cayuga Medical Center at the location selected below.

**Notes**

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**Imaging Services Locations:**

- **Cayuga Medical Center**
  101 Dates Drive
  Ithaca, New York 14850

- **Ithaca Convenient Care**
  10 Arrowwood Drive
  Ithaca, New York 14850

- **Cortland Convenient Care**
  1129 Commons Avenue
  Cortland, New York 13045

(607) 274-4376

www.cayugamed.org
CAT Scan
(Computerized Axial Tomography Scan)

What is the test?
A CAT scan utilizes X-ray and a state-of-the-art computer to create specific images of the body’s muscles, bones, and organs. These images are highly detailed cross sections of the tissue being examined.

How do I prepare?
If you are on Glucophage (metformin), please consult your doctor regarding stopping and then resuming your medication following the exam. Since materials such as metal and plastic can affect the accuracy of X-rays, it’s best to leave your jewelry and any garments containing metal (such as underwire bras) or buttons, snaps, and zippers at home.

For more detailed instructions regarding your specific CAT scan preparation and procedure, please see the following.

What can I expect during the procedure?
CAT scans are safe and painless. You simply lie on a table that slides into the scanner. The scanner is shaped like a donut and makes spinning sound as it moves around your body.

For some studies, a certified health care professional will inject an iodine-based contrast into a vein. Alternatively, you may be asked to swallow a flavored drink containing contrast prior to your scan, in order to highlight your digestive tract. You may be asked to hold your breath for a short period of time.

After the test?
If you have had contrast administered, you may feel slightly nauseous or notice an unusual taste in your mouth. We recommend that you drink plenty of caffeine-free fluids. Unless otherwise notified, you may return to your regular diet and resume regular activities. You will stay an additional 30 minutes post injection.

How and when will I get my test results?
Typically, within the next 48 hours a written report of your test results will be sent to your referring physician, who will review them with you. Additional time (3 to 5 days) may be required if we are comparing these tests results to previous findings from other facilities.

My CAT scan is:

______ Abdominal Renal Stone (without contrast)
______ Brain CAT (without contrast)
______ Chest CAT (without contrast)

Preparation:
These CAT scans do not require a contrast. There is no prep for these exams. The total testing time is about 20 minutes.

______ Abdomen or Pelvis
______ Three-Phase Kidney
______ Adrenal
______ Appendicitis*

Preparation:
*Appendicitis prep time is 2 hours. Nothing to eat 4 hours before the exam. You may have up to 16 ounces of clear liquids: water, tea, juice, or broth, but no coffee. When you arrive for your imaging study, you will consume 32 ounces of contrast beverage within 60 minutes. You will have an IV started prior to the procedure. When having the Adrenal CAT scan, you will have the examination without contrast first. This may be followed by a second scan with IV contrast, if the radiologist determines this is necessary. Testing time is about 90 minutes.