

CT Scan (Computerized Axial Tomography)

At Ascension St. Vincent's One Nineteen, we use X-ray images with the aid of a computer to generate cross-sectional and, in some cases, 3D images of the body.

CT Scans are performed to analyze the internal structures of the body. This includes the head, where traumatic injuries such as blood clots, skull fractures, tumors, and infections can be identified. In the spine, the bony structure of the vertebral column can be defined, as can the disks and spinal cord. In the abdomen, CT helps to identify anatomy such as the liver, gallbladder, pancreas, spleen, aorta, kidneys, uterus, and ovaries. CT is used to assess the presence or absence of tumors, infection, abnormal anatomy, or changes due to trauma.

Occasionally, contrast may be given to further enhance the scan and various structural relationships. This may involve drinking a solution prior to your CT scan. You may also require intravenous (IV) contrast for your exam.

Make sure you inform your technologist if you have a known allergy to iodine, shellfish, or have experienced a previous contrast reaction.

IF YOU ARE PREGNANT OR THINK YOU MAY BE PREGNANT, YOU MUST INFORM THE TECHNOLOGIST BEFORE YOUR EXAM.

Test Prep Instructions:

Non-Contrast Studies

- ❖ There is no test prep for this scan.
- ❖ Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment for registration.

Contrast Studies

- ❖ Please have nothing to eat or drink 3-4 hours prior to this scan.
- ❖ Please drink 32 oz. of water prior to the scan.
- ❖ Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment for registration unless directed otherwise.



Ascension St. Vincent's One Nineteen

is an ACR accredited facility.

