



## Abdominal and Pelvic CT Test

### **CT Department**

St. James Mercy Hospital, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
411 Canisteo Street  
Hornell NY, 14843  
**607-324-8249**

To schedule an appointment: 607-324-8279

To fax to scheduling: 607-324-8221

### **What is an Abdominal or Pelvic CT Test?**

This is a test that looks at your organs and vascular system. It can scan everything from the bottom of your lungs to the top of your legs.

### **How do I prepare for the scan?**

- **Do not eat any solid food or drink fluids for four (4) hours prior to your CT scan.**
- **Take your regular medications** at your usual time. If you are a diabetic patient and take the medication Glucophage (metformin), you may not take this medication for 48 hours after the injection of IV contrast. The CT technician will provide instructions on this.
- You should wear comfortable clothes. If you wear pants with a zipper or metal, we will ask you to pull them down to your knees for the scan, and we will cover you with a sheet during the test.
- You may also need to have blood work done (BUN and Creat) before your exam. The scheduler will let you or your doctor's office know if this is needed. The blood work must be completed during a specific timeframe prior to the CT scan, based on your age. Your doctor's office will provide the requisition for the blood work.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment to complete the registration process.

### **What happens during the scan?**

You will be brought into our CT room and asked questions about your symptoms. You will then lie on the exam table and we will start an IV if you are going to be getting contrast dye. The table will pass slowly through a large opening in the scanner as x-rays are taken. You will be asked to lie perfectly still and follow some breathing instructions during the scan, so that blurring does not occur. If contrast dye is used, it will be injected into your arm through an IV line.

### **How will I feel during the test?**

If you get an injection of contrast dye, you may have a momentary feeling of warmth and flushing, a salty or metallic taste in your mouth, mild nausea, or a brief sensation of urinating (you will not actually urinate). The scan itself is painless.

### **How long does the scan take?**

Some CT tests require you to drink an oral contrast liquid. If this is required for your scan, we will take you to our waiting room to drink the oral contrast. You will wait one hour for the contrast to pass into your system, and then we will do the scan. Your scheduled appointment allows time for you to drink the oral contrast.

### **What happens after the CT scan?**

After the scan, you should be able to resume your normal diet and activities. Drink at least 5 to 6 glasses of water a day for two days after the scan. The water helps flush the contrast media from your system. If you must limit your fluid intake because of a heart problem or for any other reason, talk with your doctor about how much water you can safely drink. If you are a diabetic patient and take the medication Glucophage (metformin), you may not take this medication for 48 hours after the injection of IV contrast. The CT technician will provide instructions on this.

### **How do I get my test results?**

The doctor who ordered the test will get the report in approximately 48 hours, and he or she will contact you with the results.