



## Head CT Scan

### **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 Head CT scan?**

This is an x-ray test that looks at your head and brain.

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

- **Do not eat any solid food or drink fluids for 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 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 you need to have this done. The blood work must be done 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.

### **Can I eat or drink before the test?**

You may not eat or drink for four (4) hours before your test.

### **What should I wear on the day of the test?**

You will wear your street clothes during the exam. Please do not wear necklaces, zip-up, or metal buttons on your shirt.

### **Should I take my medications on the day of the test?**

You may take your medication as usual before the test. 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.

### **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.

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. We will scan you one time and then inject the contrast dye if needed. If contrast is used, it will be injected into your arm through an IV line.

We then wait five minutes, during which time you need to lie still on the table. Then we will scan you one more time.

### **How should 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 test take?**

The actual test should take about 15 minutes.

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

The doctor who ordered the test will get the report in within a week, and he or she will contact you with the results.