Appointment Information

Date: 

Time: 

Study: 

We request that you arrive 15 minutes prior to your appointment time for registration purposes.

The ANMC Radiology Department is located on the first floor of the ANMC hospital next to the Emergency Room.

Patient Information

Please contact us if you have questions:
(907) 729-2300

Alaska Native Medical Center
4315 Diplomacy Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
anmc.org
How to prepare for your CT scan

Depending on the part of the body being scanned, you may be required to drink a contrast media. This contrast helps to highlight the stomach and intestines on the images.

If you are required to drink contrast for your CT scan, you will not be able to eat or drink anything for at least four hours prior to the CT scan. If you are over 60 years of age, have diabetes or poor kidney function, you may need a blood test prior to your CT scan. This test is called a Creatinine level and can be obtained either at the hospital or in the clinic.

What happens during the CT scan?

The CT machine itself looks like a large donut which is open on both sides. You will lie on a long table that moves in and out of the machine to take pictures. The entire test takes 5-20 minutes, depending on what type of scan is being performed. The machine talks and will give you instruction on when to hold your breath and to breathe during the scan. While in the CT room, the technologist might insert an intravenous catheter (IV) into your vein to administer IV contrast. Iodine is the main ingredient of the contrast solution. If you have any allergy to iodine, you need to speak with your doctor or the technologist before your CT scan.

The administration of the contrast solution is essential for the diagnosis of many diseases. When injected, the contrast solution will normally make you feel warm and flush and leave a metallic taste in your mouth. This normally goes away in 1-2 minutes.

What happens after your CT scan?

If contrast solution is administered for your test, you will be asked to drink lots of water for the next 48 hours to help flush out the contrast solution. The contrast solution that is injected into your bloodstream will be absorbed by your body without any side effects.