

CT Scan

Patient instructions for studies that include the abdomen

You should follow these instructions if you are scheduled for any CT scan that will include parts of your abdomen (or belly), which includes your stomach, intestines, liver, spleen, and pancreas.

What It Is

A **computed tomography (CT) scan** is a noninvasive medical test that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions. Sometimes called a CAT scan, it combines special X-ray equipment with sophisticated computers to produce multiple images or pictures of the inside of the body. CT scans of internal organs, bones, soft tissue, and blood vessels provide greater clarity and reveal more details than regular X-ray exams. You may be given oral or IV contrast to outline body structures.

How to Prepare

- **Do not consume any solid food for 4 hours before your scheduled appointment time.**
- You can drink liquids such as non-carbonated water, juice, and black coffee or tea.
- **Please arrive 45 minutes before your scheduled appointment time.**
- **If your appointment is scheduled before 8:40 a.m.**, you **MUST** pick up your oral prep in advance. Patients who pick up their oral contrast in advance can arrive 30 minutes prior to an appointment time, but no earlier than 6:45 a.m.
- If you have had recent blood work, including a BUN/creatinine test done at an outside hospital within 3 weeks of your exam, please bring a copy of the results with you.

What to Expect

- To ensure your safety, a blood test may be required prior to an injection of CT contrast. We will review your medical record to determine if a blood test is required.
- If a blood test is required, we will draw a blood sample and wait for the results before proceeding with your CT scan.

How to Find Us

CT is located in the **Lank Imaging Department** on level **L1** of the Dana building. To get to the Lank Imaging Department from Dana-Farber's parking garage or any floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care, please use one of these route options.

- A. From the 3rd floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care:**
 1. Cross the **PMC Bridge** to reach the **Dana building**.
 2. Take a **Dana building elevator** down to level **L1**, where you'll find the **Lank Imaging Department**.
- B. From level P2 of the parking garage (unavailable on Saturdays):**
 1. Walk through the **Tomsich Family Gallery** (gene display) to reach the Dana building.
 2. Follow signs to the **Dana building elevators** and take an elevator up to level **L1**, where you'll find the **Lank Imaging Department**.

For driving directions to Dana-Farber, visit www.dana-farber.org/directions or call **617-632-3400**.

Questions?

Call us at **617-632-3215** if you have any questions. Our hours of operation are: weekdays from 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.