CT Scan

Patient instructions for studies that do NOT include the pelvis or abdomen
You should follow these instructions if you are scheduled for any CT scan that does NOT include your abdomen (stomach, intestines, liver, spleen, and pancreas) or your pelvis (the lower part of your body, between your hips).

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 an IV contrast injection to outline body structures.

How to Prepare
- Do not consume any solid food for 2 hours before your scheduled appointment time.
- Consuming clear liquids such as non-carbonated waters or black coffee/tea is allowed.
- Please arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment time.
- If you have had recent blood work that includes a BUN/creatinine test at an outside hospital within 4 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/screening form 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

Longwood Campus (Boston)
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.

Chestnut Hill Campus (Newton)
CT Scan is located on the 3rd floor. Enter the parking garage on Boylston Street and park on level P3. Take the Boylston elevators to the 3rd floor and check in at the desk.
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.