



## **CT Scans**

Computed tomography, often called a CT scan or CAT scan, is a type of x-ray that shows slices of internal organs and structures in your body. The computer puts the slices together and creates an image of the inside of the body.

CT scans are used to image muscles, blood vessels and bones. CT scans aide doctors in evaluating abnormal masses within the body. CT scans can visualize blood clots, cancer and other types of tumors in a non-invasive manner. A high speed 64 slice CT scan can evaluate the coronary arteries of the heart for blockage instead of a more invasive arteriogram..

During the CT scan, the patient lays on a table that passes through an large inner tube shaped x-ray machine. Contrast dye, given through an intravenous line, can help blood vessels and the urinary tract stand out. Patients may also be asked to drink contrast to help visualize the gastrointestinal tract. Radiation from a CT scan is minimal.