

CAT Scan

COMPUTERIZED AXIAL TOMOGRAPHY SCAN



Brain CAT (with IV contrast):

Testing time is about 30 minutes.

Chest CAT (with IV contrast):

Testing time is about 40 minutes.

Neck CAT Soft Tissue (with IV contrast):

Testing time is about 40 minutes.

Renal CAT (first without contrast, possibly followed by with contrast):

Testing time is about 40 minutes

CAT Angiography – Brain (CTA-Brain):

Testing time is about 40 minutes.

Cat Angiography – Leg (CTA-Pelvic with leg runoff):

Testing time is about 40 minutes.

CAT Angiography – Neck (CTA-Neck):

Testing time is about 40 minutes.

CAT Angiography- Abd (CTA-Abd):

Testing time is about 40 minutes.

Preparation:

Have nothing to eat for four hours before the exam. You may have up to 16 ounces of clear liquids: water, tea, juice, or broth, but no coffee. Plan to arrive 15 minutes early for registration. These exams require an IV. No oral contrast will be given.

Virtual Colonoscopy

Preparation:

This exam requires a restricted diet prior to the exam and a bowel prep you will receive from your doctor. Testing time is about 40 minutes.

Where is the test performed?

Your CAT scan will be performed in the Imaging Services Department of Cayuga Medical Center at the location selected below.

Notes

NAME _____

APPOINTMENT DATE _____ TIME _____



Imaging Services Locations:

☐ **Cayuga Medical Center**
101 Dates Drive
Ithaca, New York 14850

☐ **Ithaca Convenient Care**
10 Arrowwood Drive
Ithaca, New York 14850

☐ **Cortland Convenient Care**
1129 Commons Avenue
Cortland, New York 13045

(607) 274-4376

www.cayugamed.org



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A Member of  Centralus Health

Welcome to the Department of Imaging Services at Cayuga Medical Center

We are here to assist in the diagnosis of medical conditions and orthopedic injuries using various forms of radiography and imaging technology. We want to make you as comfortable as possible during your exam, while providing timely, thorough, and accurate diagnostic information to your doctor.

The information in this brochure will tell you about the imaging study for which you are scheduled. If you have additional questions, please feel free to call **(607) 274-4376** and ask for the diagnostic supervisor. This person will be able to help you.

About our Imaging Services



Cayuga Medical Center has a commitment to and reputation for staying abreast of changing technology and our imaging equipment is state-of-the-art.

Our range of services is comprehensive and we offer all imaging modalities found in major medical centers. Radiologists are on site at all three of our locations, which also distinguishes the level of service we provide.

Imaging Services is staffed by six board certified radiologists, many of whom are sub-specialists in areas such as neuroradiology, abdominal CT, and interventional procedures. Assisting them are experienced radiologic technologists and sonographers, many of whom have completed advanced training and are certified in specialty modalities.

CAT Scan

(Computerized Axial Tomography Scan)

What is the test?

A CAT scan utilizes X-ray and a state-of-the-art computer to create specific images of the body's muscles, bones, and organs. These images are highly detailed cross sections of the tissue being examined.

How do I prepare?

If you are on Glucophage (*metformin*), please consult your doctor regarding stopping and then resuming your medication following the exam. Since materials such as metal and plastic can affect the accuracy of X-rays, it's best to leave your jewelry and any garments containing metal (*such as underwire bras*) or buttons, snaps, and zippers at home.

For more detailed instructions regarding your specific CAT scan preparation and procedure, please see the following.

What can I expect during the procedure?

CAT scans are safe and painless. You simply lie on a table that slides into the scanner. The scanner is shaped like a donut and makes spinning sound as it moves around your body.

For some studies, a certified health care professional will inject an iodine-based contrast into a vein. Alternatively, you may be asked to swallow a flavored drink containing contrast prior to your scan, in order to highlight your digestive tract. You may be asked to hold your breath for a short period of time.

After the test?

If you have had contrast administered, you may feel slightly nauseous or notice an unusual taste in your mouth. We recommend that you drink plenty of caffeine-free fluids. Unless otherwise notified, you may return to your regular diet and resume regular activities. You will stay an additional 30 minutes post injection.

How and when will I get my test results?

Results from your exam will go to your ordering provider and can also be found in your MyChart when they are available. Additional time may be required if we are comparing these tests results to previous findings from other facilities.

My CAT scan is:

_____ **Abdominal Renal Stone (*without contrast*)**

_____ **Brain CAT (*without contrast*)**

_____ **Chest CAT (*without contrast*)**

Preparation:

These CAT scans do not require a contrast. There is no prep for these exams. The total testing time is about 20 minutes.

_____ **Abdomen or Pelvis**

_____ **Three-Phase Kidney**

_____ **Adrenal**

_____ **Appendicitis***

Preparation:

*Appendicitis prep time is 2 hours. Nothing to eat 4 hours before the exam. You may have up to 16 ounces of clear liquids: water, tea, juice, or broth, but no coffee. When you arrive for your imaging study, you will consume 32 ounces of contrast beverage within 60 minutes. You will have an IV started prior to the procedure. When having the Adrenal CAT scan, you will have the examination without contrast first. This may be followed by a second scan with IV contrast, if the radiologist determines this is necessary. Testing time is about 90 minutes.