

## CT Abdomen and Pelvis

### **Purpose of the examination:**

CT of the abdomen and pelvis is performed for evaluation of abdominal diseases. This test can be performed with or without contrast. Most patients receive an injection of iodinated contrast during the test. The contrast agent highlights abdominal structures and helps better identification of abdominal diseases. CT scans performed for certain reasons (like renal stones) do not require contrast injection.

### **How to prepare:**

You should alert your physician if you ever had allergic reaction to iodinated contrast agents in the past. If you had such an allergic reaction in the past you will need to take a premedication regimen consisting of steroid and benadryl (starting the night before) to decrease chance of repeat allergic reaction. Shellfish allergy does not increase risk of allergic reaction with iodinated contrast and does not require premedication.

You should not eat any solid food 5 hours prior to the CT. You can drink clear fluids up to one hour before the study.

### **Where to go:**

CT of the abdomen and pelvis is performed at The Kirklin Clinic of UAB Hospital, third floor Radiology area. Please check in with the Radiology desk upon arrival and they will assist you to the appropriate area.

### **What to expect:**

Once escorted into the CT examination area, you will change into a gown in a private area where you may store personal belongings. Abdomen and pelvic CTs are tailored according to the patients' symptoms/suspected disease and the exact process varies from patient to patient. An IV will be started for contrast enhanced CT studies. You may be given oral contrast to drink. After you enter the CT scan room, the exam only takes a few minutes. You will be scanned while on your back. After the scan is complete, you will then return to your dressing room where you will change into your clothes.

### **After the examination:**

The examination will be studied by one of our trained specialty radiologists who will then provide a report to your primary care doctor. The results and any recommendations will be communicated to you.

### **For more information:**

Call UAB Radiology at The Kirklin Clinic of UAB Hospital (205-801-8890).

Thank you for choosing UAB Radiology!