

UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER PATIENT EDUCATION

COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY ANGIOGRAPHY (CTA) OF THE HEAD AND NECK



Your physician has referred you to the Diagnostic Services Department at United Hospital Center for a Computed Tomography Angiogram Scan (CT Scan). CT is x-ray technique that uses a special scanner and computer to create cross-sectional images of your Head and Neck. These images show the blood vessels in detail as well as soft tissue such as the disks, spinal cord, vocal cords, and the bones of the vertebra.

The technologist will position you on a moveable CT Table. Velcro bands may be used to help support your arms and head as a reminder to hold still. The table will move for each scan. You will pass through the opening of the large doughnut shaped ring, simply relax and remain still. The technologist will keep in close contact with you by way of an intercom and watch you through a glass window. During the exam, you may hear the sounds of gears and motors coming from the ring.

An x-ray dye will be injected through an IV inserted in your arm or hand to highlight certain body parts. This x-ray dye may cause a warm sensation throughout your body or produce a funny taste in your mouth. These are both normal. If you have had a reaction to x-ray dye before, or if you begin to itch, are short of breath, or experience any discomfort, tell the technologist **IMMEDIATELY**.

It is very important that you hold completely still for this test. If you move, the images may be blurry and the doctor may not be able to see everything clearly. It is not necessary to fast before these exams. You will be asked to remove dentures, earrings, and necklaces for this exam.

Length: Approximately 45 minutes

If you are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, tell your doctor and the technologist **BEFORE** the exam.

DISCLAIMER: The content contained in this patient education is presented solely with the intent of providing public service information on health and health-related issues. This information is neither intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Always consult your physician or other qualified health provider prior to utilizing any of the information presented in this patient education. UHC makes no warranty, representation or guaranty as to the content, accuracy, timeliness or completeness of the information presented in this patient education or that the information may be relied upon for any reason.

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