C.T. or CAT Scans

A CAT scan (computerized axial tomography) is a specialized x-ray picture that uses x-rays and a computer to make detailed pictures of different areas of your body. A CAT scan is also known as a C.T. scan. The CAT scanner is a large machine that has an opening through which your body moves to take the pictures. A CAT scan takes about 30 minutes. For the exam you will lie on a special moving table, but you must remain still during the exam. It may be necessary for you to hold your breath for 5-10 seconds on occasion, as instructed by the technician doing the scan.

Between 10 and 40 pictures will be made during a typical CAT scan. You may need to drink a white chalky liquid or have IV contrast material injected to complete the exam. The IV contrast is generally very safe. It is needed to evaluate the blood supply of the area being studied. Your CAT scan will be evaluated by a radiology specialist. Your caregiver will be notified of the findings. You should ask your caregiver when and how you will be notified of the results.

Document Released: 01/25/2006 Document Re-Released: 10/15/2010
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.