

Emory Radiology

CT and MRI Patient Preparation Instructions



- These are preparation instructions for adult patients (16+).
- For pediatric patients under the age of 16, please call Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at 404-785-6078 or after hours at 404-785-6117.
- For maps and directions to Emory Radiology sites, please call 404-778-7777 or visit us online at www.emoryhealthcare.org/radiology.

Pre-Registration:

Patients may need to pre-register for radiology exams or procedures. Please call the appropriate Fast-Track Admissions number below prior to your appointment date:

Emory University Hospital (EUH): 404-686-5270 or 1-800-640-9293

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.

Emory University Hospital Midtown (EUHM): 404-251-3800

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.

Radiology Exams/Procedures:

- Please arrive 30 minutes in advance of your scheduled appointment to complete any paperwork and prepare you for your exam.
- For most radiology procedures, you will be asked to change into a hospital gown.
- If you need to take medications, please take them with a small amount of water unless you have been instructed to withhold your medications. If you are uncertain, please call the appropriate number listed below.
- If you are PREGNANT or there is a possibility that you are pregnant, please notify your physician.
- Information for common procedures:
 - For general patient preparation information, please call 404-778-XRAY (9729).
 - For biopsies and special procedures information, please call 404-712-0566.

Intravenous (IV) Iodinated Contrast:

- Do not eat anything for three hours prior to your computed tomography (CT) scan. You may drink clear liquids before your exam.
- You may take your regular medications with clear liquids the morning of your exam.
- Inform your physician if you have a history of either diabetes or renal (kidney) disease; for some patients, the physician may want a creatinine blood test (which measures kidney function) performed within 30 days prior to your appointment.
- If you have a known allergy to IV iodinated contrast dye for CT and certain types of X-ray exams, it is important that you inform your physician. He or she will provide you with a prescription for a corticosteroid medication to take prior to your exam.

Abdominal/Pelvic Computed Tomography (CT):

- Please arrive 30 minutes before your exam.
- Do not eat anything for three hours prior to your CT scan. You may drink clear liquids before your exam.
- You may take your regular medications with clear liquids the morning of your exam.

- If you have a history of either diabetes or renal (kidney) disease, your physician will want you to have a creatinine blood test (which measures kidney function) performed within 30 days prior to your appointment.
- Oral contrast material may be provided to you in the Radiology department. Please inform the Radiology staff if you are allergic to iodine as some oral contrast agents contain iodine.
- You will receive instructions when you arrive regarding when to begin drinking the oral contrast material.
- Some patients may require contrast material administration via a rectal tube. Please inform the Radiology staff if you are allergic to iodine as some rectal contrast agents contain iodine.
- If you have kidney failure or are on a fluid-restricted diet, please coordinate your dialysis within 24 hours of your exam if you will be receiving intravenous contrast for the exam.
- IV contrast may be used depending on the exam ordered by your physician. Please inform the Radiology staff if you are allergic to iodine as the IV contrast material used for CT scans contains iodine. If you know you are allergic to iodine, your physician will provide you with a prescription for a corticosteroid medication to take prior to your exam.
- Please allow one and a half hours for this exam.

Computed Tomography (CT) Guided Biopsy:

- If your exam is in the morning, drink only clear liquids after midnight the night before your exam. You may take your regular medications with sips of water the morning of your exam. If your exam is in the afternoon, do not eat or drink anything for six hours prior to your exam.
- If you have a history of either diabetes or renal (kidney) disease, your physician will want you to have a creatinine blood test (which measures kidney function) performed within 30 days prior to your appointment.
- Coagulation studies (protime [PT/INR], partial thromboplastin time [PTT] and platelets) will need to be performed within 30 days prior to your exam date.
- If you are taking blood thinning medications (e.g., Advil, Aleve, Plavix, Coumadin, Lovenox), please be sure you receive instructions regarding if and when you should stop taking your medicine. If you have questions about when you should stop taking a particular blood thinning medication, please call our Patient Care Coordination office at 404-712-0566. Please consult your doctor before stopping any medications.
- From the beginning of the procedure to the end of the procedure will take approximately two hours. Radiofrequency ablations will take approximately four hours.
- Post-procedure recovery will take approximately four hours. Patients undergoing renal biopsies and radiofrequency ablations may be admitted for 23 hours. Because we use sedation for CT procedures, patients will need to arrange a ride home.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI):

- Please arrive 30 minutes before your exam.
- If your doctor has ordered IV (moderate) sedation for your procedure, do not eat or drink anything six hours before your exam. You may take schedule medications with sips of water.
- If you have any metal fragments or objects such as a pacemaker in your body or you have a fear of confined spaces, please let your doctor know when he or she is scheduling your MRI exam. Your physician may need to prescribe medicine for your claustrophobia that you will need to bring with you to your appointment. For more information, please call 404-778-XRAY (9729).
- If you are on dialysis, you must have a scheduled dialysis appointment the day after receiving MRI contrast.
- Please allow up to two hours for this visit.

For additional patient preparation information, please visit:

www.emoryhealthcare.org/radiology

www.radiologyinfo.org

Thank you for choosing Emory Radiology.