

CTA Abdomen/Pelvis (CT Angiogram)



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What is a CTA of the Abdomen/Pelvis?

CT angiography is used to examine the blood vessels the abdomen and pelvic area. Routine protocol is to perform a CTA of the abdomen and pelvis together because the aorta extends from the abdomen into the pelvis.

CPT Code

74175 Pelvis With Contrast
72191 Abdomen With Contrast

Indications

With Contrast: arterial and venous aneurysm, atherosclerotic occlusive disease, arterial and venous thromboembolism.

Contraindications

Patients on glucophage/metformin must not take medications the day of the test. Additionally, the patient must stay off these medications for 48 hours after the CT. The patient must return to their referring physician in 48 hours and have a creatinine drawn. Based on those results, the patient may resume medication per their physician instructions.

Pregnancy.

Allergy to contrast material.

How Does Your Patient Prepare?

A current creatinine (30 days) is required if the patient is 60 years of age and older. Additionally, the patient must be NPO for 6 hours prior to the exam.

Your patient should also inform his doctor of any recent illnesses or other medical conditions, and if he has a history of heart disease, asthma, diabetes, kidney disease or thyroid problems. Any of these conditions may increase the risk of an unusual adverse effect.

What Happens During the Test?

Your patient will be asked to remove any jewelry and clothing. He will be given a gown and the technologist will obtain a medical history. The patient will be instructed to lie on his back during the exam. The patient will be asked to remain very still during the scanning process and will be given specific breathing instructions.

The scan should take approximately 5 minutes, but the visit may require up to 30 minutes.

After the Test

Your patient may resume normal activities following the CT.

If your patient is on glucophage/metphormin, he must stay off the medication for 48 hours. Additionally, he must return to his referring physician in 48 hours to have a creatinine drawn. Based on these results, your patient may resume medication in accordance with his physician's instructions.

The Results

A radiologist will analyze the images and send a signed report to the referring physician within 1 business day.

(Information adapted from www.radiologyinfo.org and Dr. James Choi)

This manual is intended for use as merely a guideline for referring physicians and their staff only. It contains information pertaining to the most commonly ordered exams and indications. However, Iowa Radiology does not recommend any particular examination. Individual radiologist preference or patient circumstances may dictate ordering alternative studies. Although contrast codes are not needed to place an order, the following contrast codes may be used in placing orders: CT Contrast Q9967, MRI contrast A9577 and A9579.