

CT Abdomen/Pelvis



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What is an Abdomen/Pelvis CT?

During an abdomen CT, organs visualized include: liver, spleen, kidneys, pancreas, top half of large and small intestine, and superior aspect of ureters.
Anatomy visualized: bottom of breast bone to the top of the pelvis.

During a pelvis CT, organs visualized include: distal bowel small and large, distal ureters, bladder, uterus, and ovaries.

The most common way to order this exam is an abdomen/pelvis together with contrast. If you are following-up on a specific organ in the abdomen or pelvis, then the exam might be ordered separately.

CPT Codes

74177 Abdomen/Pelvis With Contrast (most common)

74176 Abdomen/Pelvis Without Contrast

74178 Abdomen/Pelvis Without and With Contrast

74160 Abdomen With Contrast

74150 Abdomen Without Contrast

72193 Pelvis With Contrast

72192 Pelvis Without Contrast

Indications

Abdomen/Pelvis With Contrast: abdominal pain, appendicitis, diverticulitis or mass

Abdomen/Pelvis Without Contrast: kidney stone, acute hematuria with pain

Abdomen/Pelvis Without and With Contrast: hematuria without pain, chronic UTI

Contraindications

For contrast exams, 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?

Without contrast studies: No preparation required.

With contrast studies: A current creatinine (30 days) is required if the patient is 60 years of age or 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 the technologist will obtain a medical history. The patient will be asked to change into a gown and to lie on his back during the exam. If contrast is indicated, the technologist will start an IV. The patient may feel warm and flushed for a few seconds. The patient will be asked to remain very still during the scanning process. The scan should take approximately 30 minutes.

After the Test

Your patient may resume normal activities following the CT.

If a contrast material was used and the patient is on glucophage/metphormin, the patient 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, the 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. Marvin Walker)

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.