What is a Sinus/Facial Bones CT?

CT scanning, often referred to as a CAT scan, is a noninvasive test that is used to diagnose medical conditions. A CT scan of the facial area produces images of a patient’s sinus cavity.

CPT Codes

- 70486  Without Contrast (most common)
- 70487  With Contrast (rarely ordered)
- 70488  Without and With Contrast (rarely ordered)
- 76380  Limited (Limited or localized follow-up study)

Indications

- Without Contrast: headache, sinusitis, facial injury
- With Contrast: mass

Contraindications

- For contrast exams, patients on glucophage/metformin need a current creatinine within 30 days of the test. Additionally, the patient must not take medications the day of the test and should remain off these medications for 48 hours after the CT.
- If the creatinine was normal prior to the CT, the patient may resume medications in 48 hours.
- Pregnancy.
- Allergy to contrast material.

How Does Your Patient Prepare?

- Without contrast studies: No preparation required.
- With contrast studies: A current creatinine within 30 days is required if the patient is 60 years of age or older, has diabetes, hypertension, or renal insufficiency. 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 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. Your 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/metformin, the patient must stay off the medication for 48 hours. If the patient’s creatinine was normal prior to the CT, the patient may resume taking the medication in 48 hours.

**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](http://www.radiologyinfo.org) and Dr. Charles De Pena)

*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.*