

**St. Joseph Hospital Imaging
Department of Computed Tomography (CT)**

What is CT Spine and Musculoskeletal Imaging?

CT Spine and Musculoskeletal Imaging shows soft tissue and bony structures. This CT exam is usually ordered to evaluate the spinal column for trauma, fractures or congenital (birth) defects.

Before your test

- IV contrast media is used to help visualize certain structures in the body. If your exam includes an IV contrast media injection, do not to eat or drink anything 4 hours prior to your exam. Continue to take prescribed medications (**with a sip of water**) on the day of the exam, unless instructed otherwise by your doctor.
- Diabetic patients- if taking Metformin or Glucophage related medications do not take this on the day of your exam.**
- You may be asked to have some lab work drawn prior to your test.
- The technologist will ask you a few questions regarding your medical history. Please notify the technologist of any allergies you may have.
- If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant please advise the technologist.**
- Please leave your jewelry and valuables at home.
- If possible, wear comfortable clothing with no metal or you may be asked to change into a hospital gown.

Please arrive early as instructed for your appointment.

Please register at the St. Joseph Hospital Outpatient Pavilion on the 1ST FLOOR.

During your test

The technologist will position you on the exam table. It is important to hold still during your exam as motion makes the images blurry. IV contrast media may be injected into your vein while on the exam table. During the injection, you may feel a warm sensation or a hot “flushed” feeling and you may have a “metallic” taste in your mouth. This is normal. The CT table will move into the scanner. You will be asked to hold your breath for about 10 to 15 seconds during the scan. The technologist will always be able to see and hear you during your exam.

After your test

You may resume your normal activities. If you received IV contrast media, we recommend you drink lots of water after your test to help flush the IV contrast media out of your system. The technologist will not be able to give you any results. The results will be available to the doctor who ordered the scan within one to two business days.

Thank you

We are honored that you have selected St. Joseph Hospital to serve your healthcare needs.