About Pulmonary Vein CT scans

Computed tomography (CT) scan is an x-ray that uses a special scanner and computer to show cross-sectional pictures of the body. The pulmonary vein CT scan is used to see the pulmonary veins. These are the large blood vessels that carry oxygen-rich blood from the lungs back to the left atrium of the heart.

Preparing for the CT scan

- **Do not eat or drink for 3 hours before your scan.**
- You may take your normal medicines with a small sip of water.
- If you have been diagnosed with kidney failure, please tell the doctor ordering the scan. You may be given more instructions to prepare for your scan.
- We need to know how well your kidneys work. This is done through blood work that needs to be done within the past 14 days before the scan.
- **If you have diabetes,** talk to your doctor about any medicines you take and whether those medicines need changed before your CT scan.

Day of your appointment

- **Arrive 30 minutes before your appointment time.**
- Please bring a list of your medicines to your appointment. Include prescription and over-the-counter medicines, herbal products, and vitamins.
- Bring your photo ID and insurance card with you.

Have questions about radiation?

At The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, we work hard to make sure you receive the lowest dose of radiation possible for your test. The radiation doses for our tests are lower than national averages and some of the lowest in the area. The dose you receive will be on the report from the radiologist.

Pregnant or allergic to contrast?

Tell the radiology technologist if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant. Tell the radiology technologist if you have an allergy to contrast medicines.

Need to reschedule or have other questions?

If you are not able to keep your appointment, call radiology scheduling at 614-293-4333. Please call us with any other questions you have.
During your scan

- We will check your heart rate and blood pressure at the beginning of the scan.
- The technologist or nurse will help you into the correct position on the scan table.
- If you are having the CT scan to prepare for an ablation procedure, you will be given a tablespoon of barium to swallow.
- The contrast medicine will be given to you through your IV. You will feel a warm feeling in your chest and body when this is given to you. This feeling is normal and goes away after a few seconds. Please tell the technologist if you have any other unusual sensations or feelings.
- If you have a subcutaneous (under the skin) port that is power injectable, bring documentation with you that states your port is power injectable and tell your technologist.
- You will be asked to hold your breath and to stay still while the pictures are taken.
- **Be prepared to be in the Radiology Department for 1 hour for your scan.**

After your scan

- If you have no other tests scheduled, you will be able to go back to your normal diet and activities. No special care is needed.
- Drink 8 (8-ounce) cups of liquid, such as water, apple juice, or Sprite to flush the contrast medicine out of your body. Limit the amount of caffeine you drink.
- The radiologist (a doctor who specializes in radiology) or the cardiologist (a doctor who specializes in diseases of the heart and blood vessels) will study your images very carefully and send a final report to your doctor.
- **If you have any problems or questions after your scan, call your doctor.**