

# ST. TAMMANY PARISH HOSPITAL CT PROTOCOLS

## HEADS

**Head** - wo or w/wo, never order just with due to the hazard of missing an active hemorrhage which shows up the same color as contrast enhancement

**CTA Head w** - with visualize cerebral arteries only, w/o scan is not performed.

**Sinuses** - sinusitis, polyps, and trauma are not indications for contrast injection. The only indication for contrast is suspicion of cancer.

**IAC's** - this will cover temporal bones, mastoids, and IAC's. The only indication for contrast is possible acoustic neuroma, in which case it should be ordered w/wo, not just with( However , the most diagnostic test for acoustic neuromas is an MRI w/wo) Cholesteatoma's , trauma, past surgery, and mastoiditis are not indications for contrast injection.

## ABDOMENS

**Renal Stone Protocol** - Abdomen and pelvis wo, never just abdomen, does not require PO contrast, PO contrast will hinder this study

**Abdomen w/o** - this will only cover from diaphragm through the iliac crest (umbilical level), if anything below this anatomical marker is desired order an Abdomen/pelvis w/o, PT. is required to drink PO contrast unless specified otherwise on the order.

**Abdomen /Pelvis w** - must be ordered Abdomen w/wo Pelvis w; the liver, spleen, and pancreas must be visualized both pre and post contrast injection for an adequate diagnosis. NEVER ORDER WITH ONLY, PT required to drink PO contrast in addition to receiving IV contrast unless otherwise stated on the order.

**CTA Abdomen w** - this will include visualization of the abdominal aorta, mesenteric arteries, renal arteries, and celiac, with images ranging from the diaphragm though the abdominal aortic bifurcation. PT does NOT drink PO contrast for this study. , PO contrast will hinder this study

**CTA ABD with Runoff w** - this is performed the same as a CTA ABD, but will cover the anatomy from the diaphragm through the toes.

**Triple Phase Abdomen** - properly ordered Abdomen w/wo, with notation of triple phase. This will demonstrate the liver at pre contrast, arterial phase, and venous phase. PT is to drink PO contrast in addition to receiving IV contrast unless otherwise specified on the order.

**Hemangioma Protocol** - usually ordered to verify findings of a hemangioma on a prior CT or Ultra Sound, if deemed necessary by the Radiologist in their dictation. This is a 20 minute test , which also requires PT to drink PO contrast unless otherwise specified on the order.

**Enterography Protocol** - usually used to better visualize small intestinal diseases, including (but not limited to) blood flow to GI track, Crohn's disease, inflammation, bleeding sources, etc. This is authorized as a CT Abdomen w/wo Pelvis w/wo. The patient will be drinking a different type of oral contrast solution than the normal CT Abdomen/Pelvis, and will be administered IV contrast as well.

**Urography** - This scan is used to visualize the urinary tract/kidneys in the place of a traditional IVP. NO PO CONTRAST is administered. The patient will be administered IV contrast. Conditions that warrant this exam include (but are not limited to) asymptomatic microscopic hematuria, urinary tract calculus obstruction/diseases, suspected renal/urothelial neoplasms, a variety of inflammatory conditions, and congenital anomalies of the urinary tract.

## CHESTS

**Chest w/o** - No IV contrast will be administered, if Super Dimension, or High resolution is requested, please note that on the order.

**Chest w** - administration of IV contrast will be given , a pre-injection scan is diagnostically unnecessary and exposes the patient to avoidable radiation exposure. For this reason we ask that you only order this exam w, never w/wo.

**CTA Chest** - PE Protocol or Aorta

**PE Protocol** - this will be timed to visualize contrast in the pulmonary arteries to check for emboli, the aortic arch is not enhanced. Please order CTA Chest w/PE protocol only.

**Chest Aorta** - still ordered as CTA chest, but please specify aorta not PE.

**CTA Cardiac** - often used in place of/in conjunction with a cardiac angiogram.

The patient will be administered IV contrast.

**Calcium Scoring** - often used as part of a cardiac work-up. Used to identify hard plaque in the arteries of the heart.

## NECKS

**Soft Tissue Neck** - anatomically this will cover from the top of the frontal sinus through the aortic arch. This exam is most diagnostic with contrast. However, a pre-injection scan is diagnostically unnecessary, and exposes patient to avoidable radiation, for this reason we ask that this exam be ordered with contrast only, never w/wo. The only reason this test should be performed wo is if patient refuses or is allergic to IV contrast, or if their eGFR is too low to receive the contrast.

**CTA Neck** - this exam visualizes the arteries of the neck ranging from the aortic arch through the base of the skull. NO pre-contrast images are warranted.

## SPINES

**C/T/L Spine** - the only indication to administer IV contrast is if there is a suspicion of a mass contacted to soft tissue components connected directly to the spine. Disc herniation , Bone trauma/cancer, or extremity pain/numbness/weakness are not indications for contrast administration, they will not enhance. Please order the desired spinal region w/o contrast only.

## EXTREMITIES

Indications for contrast includes cellulitis, soft tissue mass, or via arthrogram.

Trauma, fractures, chronic pain, surgery, sprains, soft tissue trauma are not indications for contrast injection, it will not enhance.

**When in doubt** authorize all exams with and without, because we can still do just without if contrast is not necessary; however, if ordered and authorized with only, we cannot do the without scan if it is necessary

**Please never hesitate to call** 871-6070 with any ordering questions.

This is the direct line to the out patient CT department.