



CT Guided Abscess Drainage

To schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about your procedure: (319) 398-6050

What is a CT Scan?

A Computed Tomography (CT) scan – sometimes called CAT scan – is a non-invasive, painless medical test that helps providers diagnose and treat medical conditions.

CT imaging uses special X-ray equipment to produce multiple images or pictures of the inside of the body. A computer joins them together in cross-sectional views of the area being studied. The images can then be examined and interpreted from the computer.

CT scans of internal organs, bone, soft tissues and blood vessels provide greater clarity than conventional X-ray exams.

What is a CT Guided Abscess Drainage?

A CT guided abscess drainage is a procedure where a radiologist uses a thin needle or catheter to remove or drain an abscess. This procedure uses CT images to accurately insert the needle or catheter.

During the procedure you will be lying on the scanner table. You will be given a local anesthetic that will numb the area around the site of the procedure. You will also have an IV placed for any medications that may be given to you. You will be asked to hold very still and hold your breath during certain times of the exam.

The biopsy will take approximately 45 – 60 minutes.

Preparation:

Do not eat anything after midnight the night before. Nothing to drink EXCEPT clear liquids up to 3 hours before procedure.

For more preparation instructions regarding medications, speak to your provider.

Because your procedure will require signing a consent to complete the exam, Mercy requests you do not take any narcotics, sedatives or antianxiety medications four hours preceding your scheduled exam.

Note: if you require anesthesia for your exam, you will receive a separate set of instructions from the anesthesia department.

Post Procedure:

You will be monitored and required to recover following the procedure.

You will be given additional post-procedure instructions following the exam.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:

A PHOTO ID TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY

A LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS YOU ARE TAKING

Mercy Hospital Parking:

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10th Street and 8th Avenue SE. Please check in at the **Registration Desk**, located on the **Ground (G) Level 1 ½ hours prior** to your procedure for prep.

Procedure Results:

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to the provider who ordered your exam. Your provider will discuss the results with you. Results will typically be available for your provider within two business days of the exam. Results will also be sent to your MyChart account.