PREPARATION FOR EXAMS

To ensure that radiologic examinations are performed safely and accurately, many require specific preparation. If you are scheduled for one of the following studies, please follow the instructions exactly. If you have questions, or cannot comply with the instructions, be sure to call the office where the exam is scheduled. Allow 1 hour for each exam, unless otherwise specified.

CT (Computerized Tomography)

Cardiac CTA and Virtual Colonoscopies

- Instructions will be given at the time of the appointment

All CT exams that require IV Contrast

- Nothing to eat 3 hours prior to exam, clear liquids are okay
- Medications may be taken the day of the exam

PET/CT

- Nothing by mouth (except medications) after midnight

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)

- Please remove any metal, jewelry, medication patches, or hair pins prior to scan. Specific preparation information will be given when your appointment is scheduled. Please inform us at the time of scheduling if you have the following:
  - Heart Pacemaker* 
  - Metallic Implants in the Body 
  - Aneurysm Clips in the brain 
  - If you are or could be pregnant 
  - Ear (Cochlear) Implants 
  - Spinal Device for Pain Control 
  - If you ever worked with metal 
  - If you are Claustrophobic 
  - If you are older than 60 years 
  - If you are diabetic 
  - If you have known kidney disease 
  - MRI is available at some sites depending on the type of pacemaker

DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY

- Please refrain from using any perfume, powder or deodorant on the day of your exam.

BARIUM ENEMA (BE, LOWER GI SERIES)

Careful preparation is crucial for a barium enema. Please follow the directions carefully to ensure that you have a clean colon.

- On the day before the exam, drink only clear liquids all day (no solid food). Drink at least 32 oz of liquid. Clear liquids include water, clear broth, soda, coffee, tea. Jell-O, strained fruit juices (no pulp). No milk products.
- At noon on the day before the exam, drink an 8-oz bottle of Citrate of Magnesium.
- At 5:00 pm on the day before the exam, swallow 4 tablespoons of castor oil or 4 Dulcolax tablets. These may be taken with juice.
- Two hours before bedtime, use 1 Fleet enema
- Do not eat or drink (except medicines) after midnight before your exam.

ULTRASOUND

Abdominal Sonogram

- Gallbladder, Liver and Pancreas Sonograms
  - AM appointment - Fast from twelve midnight until after the examination
  - Patient may take medications with a small amount of water
  - PM appointment - Clear liquid breakfast (no milk) before 9 AM
  - Nothing to eat or drink after breakfast

Pelvic Sonogram

- Drink 24-36 ounces of fluid at least 1 hour before appointment
- Do not void until after exam

OB (Pregnancy Sonogram)

- Drink 24-36 ounces of fluid at least 1 hour before appointment
- Do not void until after exam

Transvaginal Ultrasound ONLY - No preparation needed

Renal Sonogram - No preparation needed

Renal and Bladder or Prostate Ultrasound

- Drink 24 ounces of fluid at least 1 hour before appointment

Biophysical Profile Study

- Patients should eat a meal 1 hour prior to appointment preferably with carbohydrates (Patients who are having both Biophysical Profile study in addition to OB Sonogram are required to follow both preparations.)

DEXA

- No calcium supplements the day of the exam
- No recent (within 72 hours) barium or nuclear medicine exams

Locations and Services

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*Pre-authorization can be obtained by Johns Hopkins Medical Imaging

BILLING INFORMATION

Johns Hopkins Medical Imaging participates with most insurance companies. If your services are covered, we will submit a claim to your insurance company on your behalf. You will receive a statement for any co-insurance from our Billing Department. If you have a co-payment for radiology services, it will be collected at the time of service.

Our Billing Department will be happy to assist you with any billing questions. They can be reached at 410-933-1200, Monday-Friday, from 9AM-4PM.