

CT Exams Contrast vs Non-Contrast Guide

These suggestions are general guidelines that apply to the use of contrast for CT exams provided at Oregon Imaging Centers. If you have questions about ordering your patient's CT, we encourage you to speak with a radiologist about the study and the need for contrast.

Speak with a Radiologist: 541-284-4016

Exam	Contrast	Signs and Symptoms
Abdomen and Pelvis C+	With Contrast	Generalized abdomen or pelvic pains. Colon issues. Small bowel problems (enterography)
Abdomen C+/C- (organ specific) Liver, Pancreas, or Kidneys	With/Without Contrast	Liver mass, acute pancreatitis, renal mass
Abdomen C+	With Contrast	Upper abdomen pains, chronic pancreatitis, f/u prior scans
Chest/Abdomen/Pelvis C+	With Contrast	Cancer, restaging, fevers, pains
KUB (stone)		History of stones, hematuria, flank pains
Chest C+	With Contrast	Initial lung nodule scan, cancer
Chest C-	Without Contrast	Lung screening, f/u prior nodules etc.
Chest HIREs		Interstitial lung disease, pulmonary fibrosis, etc.
CTA Chest for PE		R/o pulmonary embolism
ST Neck C+	With Contrast	Cancer, swollen glands, soft tissue pains
Head C-	Without Contrast	Headaches, migraines, trauma, bleed
Head C-/C+	With/Without Contrast	R/o mass, abscess
C-Spine	Without	Trauma, cervical pains
L-Spine	Without	Trauma, lumbar pains
Heart Calcium Scoring	Without	
Mastoids C-	Without	
Sinus Landmarx Complete	Without	Pre-op
Sinus LTD	Without	Sinusitis

*** If unsure to use contrast, order contrast at radiologist discretion.**