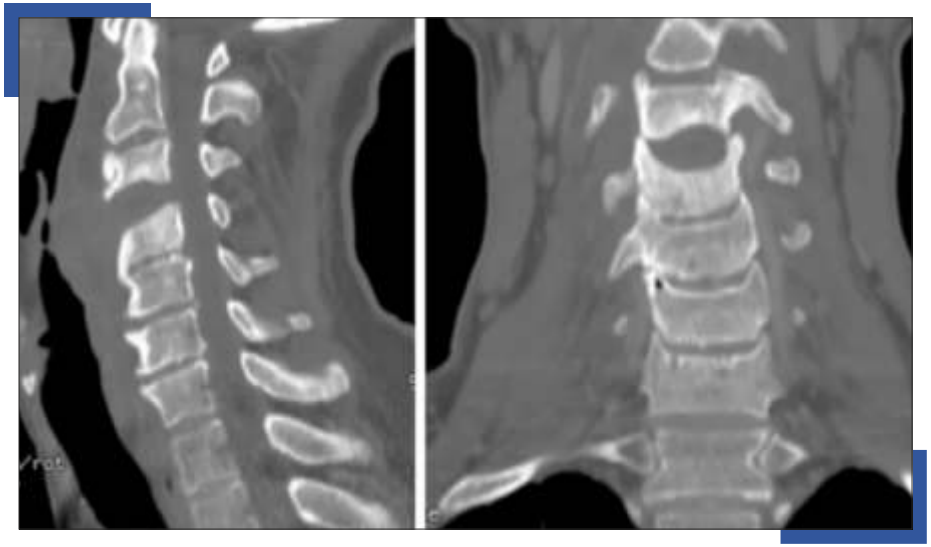
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Ghaziabad: Plot No 14 & 15, Block P, Sector 23, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad
Near ALT Bus Stand, Phone No.: +91-9217244110
info@molecularit.com www.molecularit.com

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Understanding
CECT Cervical/Spine Extended Study



What is CECT Cervical/Spine Extended Study?

CECT Cervical/Spine Extended Study is a contrast-enhanced computed tomography that uses ionizing radiation and iodine dye to deliver detailed images of the designated area of the spine and the structures surrounding it. In addition, the extended study includes the evaluation of the spine alignment, vertebrae, and adjacent soft tissues from different angles. Besides, the contrast medium can help identify various spinal abnormalities.

Why is it Performed?

The diagnostic scan is recommended to examine the causes of infection, inflammation, tumors, other soft-tissue abnormalities, and spinal cord issues, including deformities. The scan allows specialists to define the exact condition of the spine and create a comprehensive treatment plan, considering the patient's health state and symptoms.

Preparation

- Inform the imaging team if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant.
- Report any kidney disease, thyroid condition, allergies, or previous reactions to contrast agents.
- Share details of your current medicines and any previous spinal surgery.
- Carry previous scans and medical reports, if available.

Procedure

Prior to the procedure, the patient is asked to lie on a special scanning table according to the directions of the imaging experts. The contrast medium is delivered into one of the patient's veins, which helps make the blood vessels visible under the CT scanner. Then, the table is moved to the desired position inside the scanner, and the X-ray generator produces slices of the selected area of the spine. During the scanning, the patient should minimize movement to avoid suboptimal results. The scanning time depends on the size of the area and the quantity of slices.

Important Instructions

- Keep your body still while the images are being captured.
- Inform the staff if you feel uncomfortable during the scan or contrast injection.
- Do not stop prescribed medicines unless advised by your doctor.

Safety Precautions

Since the procedure involves ionizing radiation and a contrast medium, it is essential before the scan to notify the specialists about pregnancy, impaired kidney function, abnormalities of the thyroid gland, and previous adverse reactions to the contrast medium solution. The imaging experts will determine the benefit-risk ratio for each patient considering alternative options for treatment.

When to Seek Medical Attention?

Patients should seek immediate medical attention in case abnormal results are compatible with the development of new discomfort or neurological symptoms. Abnormal scan results usually correlate with severe pain in the affected area, new sensations, such as numbness or pins-and-needles around limbs, and problems with breathing, swallowing, and facial swelling. These symptoms may appear suddenly and necessitate urgent hospital care.

It is essential to have the scan results examined by a healthcare professional since test results in isolation cannot provide an exact diagnosis. They should always be considered alongside the patient's physical findings, history, and symptoms. Molecular Diagnostics and Therapy are happy to assist patients in learning about their results and identifying the most optimal individual treatment plan.