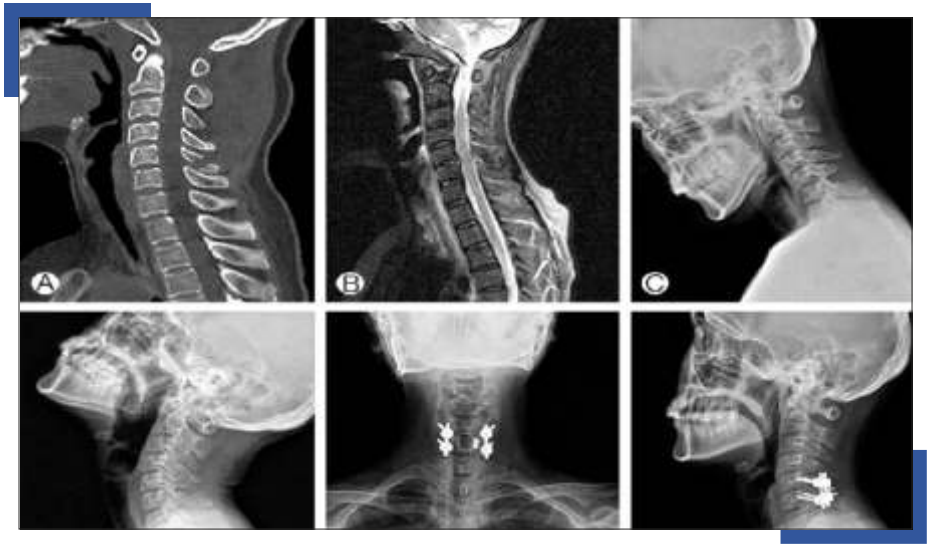
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Understanding
CT Cervical/Spine Extended Study – Plain



What is a CT Cervical/Spine Extended Study – Plain?

CT Cervical/Spine Extended Study is a computerized tomographic X-ray examination that captures cross-sectional images of the cervical spine and the bones of the body. The CT scanner generates an extended study, which covers a larger area than a limited study, as per the requested scan. This scan helps to examine the alignment and anatomy of the vertebrae.

Why is it Performed?

The imaging technique is performed to determine the cause of the injury to the neck or spine, irregular bone growth, fractures, and abnormalities in the bones. The scan also determines the spine alignment.

Preparation

- Inform the imaging team if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant.
- Share details of any recent injury, previous spinal surgery, or relevant medical conditions.
- Carry previous scans and medical reports, if available.
- Remove jewellery, chains, and other metal objects around the neck or scanned area.

Procedure

The patient is instructed to lie on the scanning table in a specific position as determined by the imaging facility. The scanning table will move slowly through the CT scanner as the X-ray beam rotates around the body, capturing images of the targeted area. The patient should remain still throughout the procedure to avoid blurring of images. As it is a plain CT scan, generally no contrast medium is injected into the veins. The procedure time depends on the area to be scanned and the instructions from the imaging center.

Important Instructions

- Keep your head and body still during image acquisition.
- Inform the staff if you experience discomfort while lying down.
- If a spinal injury is suspected, avoid unnecessary movement and follow the team's positioning instructions.

Safety Precautions

The procedure involves radiation to obtain diagnostic quality images. The risk from radiation is low as the dose received is kept to a minimum. Pregnant ladies should inform the radiologist so that alternative measures can be taken. Patients with reduced mobility or injured bones should inform the staff.

When to Seek Medical Attention?

Get emergency help if you have had an injury to the spine or neck that causes numbness or loss of bladder or bowel control. You should see your physician if you have persistent pain in the neck or lower back or numbness or tingling in your arms or legs. Interpretation of your results should be done by a physician who will correlate the results with your symptoms and medical history. Molecular Diagnostics and Therapy is available to provide information and support throughout the diagnostic process.