MOLECULAR
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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
CT Cervical Spine – Limited Study – Plain



What is CT Cervical Spine – Limited Study – Plain?

CT Cervical Spine is a computed tomography (CT) scan that uses X-rays to create cross-sectional images of the body. The cervical spine is the first 7 vertebrae in the neck region of the spinal column. CT Cervical Spine limited study scan is used to assess cervical vertebrae up to six. The test captures images of the cervical bones, spine, and muscles to identify problems in the neck region.

Why is it Performed?

A CT cervical spine test is performed to detect any kind of injury, fracture, chronic neck pain, degenerative conditions, or irregularity in the cervical vertebrae. In addition, the test is also done to determine bone misalignment as well as the symptoms that the injury may cause to the bones and soft tissues in the neck region.

Preparation

- Inform the imaging team if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant.
- Share details of any recent neck injury, previous spinal surgery, or relevant medical conditions.
- Carry previous scans and medical reports, if available.

Procedure

The cervical spine limited study test is usually conducted on a person lying flat on a table. The table is then passed through the CT scanner to get images of the cervical vertebrae. The person being scanned is required to remain still to ensure that there are no unclear images or scans. Since it is a plain scan, sometimes a contrast medium is not administered.

Important Instructions

- Keep your head and neck still during image acquisition.
- Inform the staff if you experience discomfort while lying down.
- If you have a suspected neck injury, avoid unnecessary neck movement and follow the medical team's positioning instructions.
- Resume normal activities unless your doctor advises otherwise.

Safety Precautions

CT cervical spine limited study scan involves the use of X-ray technology and may expose the patient to radiation. However, there are minimal risks involved as a result of the low exposure to radiation during the scanning process. Pregnant women should inform the radiographer to avoid exposing them to radiation. Individuals with recent injury to the neck should also inform the radiographer to take extra caution in conducting the test.

When to Seek Medical Attention?

It is normal to experience pain and numbness in the neck and upper back region after a CT cervical spine scan. However, if these symptoms persist, it is advisable to seek medical attention. Additionally, one should seek emergency medical attention if one experiences numbness and/or weakness in the limbs following an injury. The symptoms may indicate serious internal injuries. One should consult a professional to discuss the results of the scan and how they relate to personal medical history and symptoms. Molecular Diagnostics and Therapy is ready to offer suggestions to help with the diagnostic process.