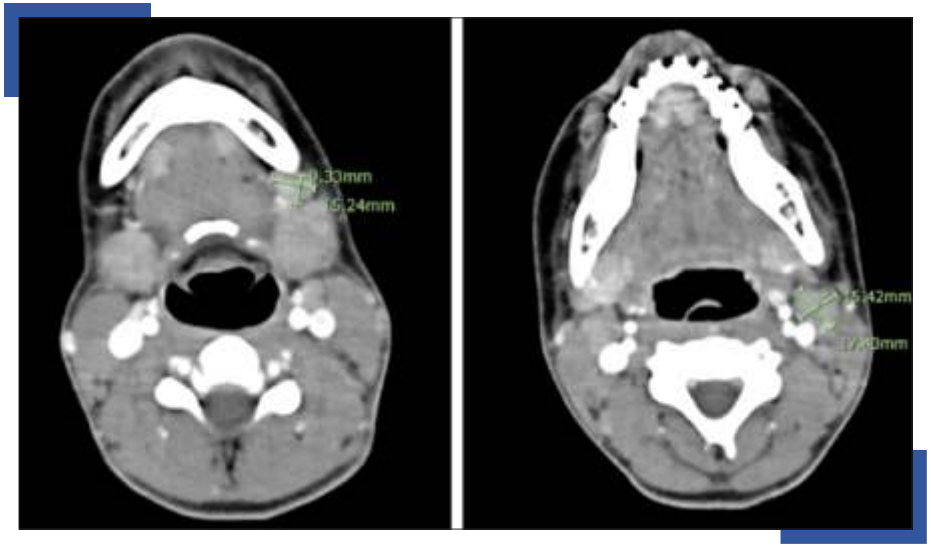
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Understanding
CT Neck – Plain



What is CT Neck – Plain?

CT Neck – Plain is a type of computed tomography that uses X-ray imaging to look at the cross-section of the neck. It allows the radiologist to assess the condition of the throat, airway, lymph nodes, salivary glands, thyroid region, and surrounding soft tissues. A contrast medium is rarely administered since the test is plain CT.

Why is it Performed?

A physician may recommend this procedure to evaluate neck enlargement, large lymph nodes, foreign bodies, neck mass, abnormalities, and some throat infections. In addition, the procedure is useful for examining the extent of injury to the neck region. The scan can also support the doctor during the diagnostic process of a persistent neck condition.

Preparation

- Inform the imaging team if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant.
- Carry your prescription and previous imaging reports, if available.
- Inform the staff about previous neck surgery, relevant medical conditions, or difficulty lying flat.
- Remove necklaces, earrings, and other metal objects around the neck.

Procedure

The patient is positioned on a table within the CT scanner, which acquires X-ray pictures of the neck region. The table begins to move within the machine while the images are captured. The patient is required to keep the head steady or might be asked to hold their breath for a few seconds during the process. CT plain scan does not require the administration of contrast medium and is quick enough.

Important Instructions

- Keep your head and neck still during image acquisition.
- Inform the staff if you feel uncomfortable or have difficulty maintaining the required position.
- Share details of previous neck surgery or relevant medical conditions.

Safety Precautions

CT scan involves low-dose X-ray exposure since the amount of radiation is minimized without compromising the diagnostic quality of the images. Therefore, it is essential to inform the technician of a suspected pregnancy. Additionally, the test should be performed under the supervision of a physician and according to the recommendations of the referring doctor.

When to Seek Medical Attention?

A person should see a physician after experiencing persistent neck swelling, severe pain, and a restricted ability to swallow. In addition, it is advisable to seek emergency medical help in the event of experiencing difficulties with breathing or a sudden increase in the size of the neck mass. The CT results should be evaluated by a physician who will interpret them together with the symptoms to determine the cause. Molecular Diagnostics and Therapy offers professional advice and assistance throughout the diagnostic process.