

## Routine CT Abdomen W Venous

**Reviewed By:** Jacob McPhee, MD

**Date of Last Revision:** January 2019

**Date of Last Review:** [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1a1on-GqlksrbCU8zpnnYgisOOebEUGCd\\_TKeLW5-Clg/edit?gid=0#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1a1on-GqlksrbCU8zpnnYgisOOebEUGCd_TKeLW5-Clg/edit?gid=0#gid=0)

**Contact:** (866) 761-4200, Option 1

*In accordance with the ALARA principle, TRA policies and protocols promote the utilization of radiation dose reduction techniques for all CT examinations. For scanner/protocol combinations that allow for the use of automated exposure control and/or iterative reconstruction algorithms while maintaining diagnostic image quality, those techniques can be employed when appropriate. For examinations that require manual or fixed mA/kV settings as a result of individual patient or scanner/protocol specific factors, technologists are empowered and encouraged to adjust mA, kV or other scan parameters based on patient size (including such variables as height, weight, body mass index and/or lateral width) with the goals of reducing radiation dose and maintaining diagnostic image quality.*

**If any patient at a TRA-MINW outpatient facility requires CT re-imaging, obtain radiologist advice prior to proceeding with the exam.**

---

The following document is an updated CT protocol for all of the sites at which TRA-MINW is responsible for the administration, quality, and interpretation of CT examinations.

### Include for ALL exams

- **Scout:** Send all scouts for all cases
- **Reformats:** Made from *thinnest source* acquisition
  - Scroll Display
    - Axial recons - Cranial to caudal
    - Coronal recons - Anterior to posterior
    - Sagittal recons - Right to left
  - Chest reformats should be in separate series from Abdomen/Pelvis reformats, where applicable
- **kVp**
  - 100 @ <=140lbs
  - 120 @ >140lbs
- **mAs**
  - Prefer: Quality reference mAs for specific exam, scanner and patient size
  - Auto mAs, as necessary

## Routine CT Abdomen W **Venous**

**Indication:** Limited indications – upper abdominal pain, epigastric pain

**Patient Position:** Supine, feet down with arms above head

**Scan Range (CC z-axis):** 1 cm above diaphragm through superior iliac crest

**Prep:** No solids (liquids OK) for 3 hours prior to examination

- Note: Okay to continue examination if prep is incomplete or not done

### **Oral Contrast:**

\*\*For specific volume + dilution based on examination type, see separate Oral Contrast protocol document and/or hospital policy for below indicated agents

- TRA-MINW offices: Dilute Isovue 370
- Hospital sites:
  - ED: Water, if possible (500 mL 15-20 min before examination)
  - Inpatient:
    - Prefer: Dilute Isovue 370
    - If above unavailable: Gastrografin
    - *Avoid Barium (Readi-Cat)*
  - FHS/MHS Outpatient: Gastrografin and/or Barium (Readi-Cat), per hospital/site policy

### **IV Contrast Dose, Flush, Rate, and Delay:**

- Dose: (modify volume if using something other than Isovue 370)
  - < 200 lbs      75 mL Isovue 370
  - 200-250 lbs    100 mL Isovue 370
  - >250 lbs        125 mL Isovue 370
- Flush: 40 mL saline
- Rate: 2.5-3 mL/sec
- Delay: Venous – 70s

**Acquisitions:** 1 (post-contrast)

- **Venous Phase:** 70 second delay

### **Series + Reformats:**

1. **Venous phase abdomen**
  - a. Axial 2-2.5 mm ST kernel
  - b. Coronal 2 mm ST kernel
  - c. Sagittal 2 mm ST kernel

**\*\*\*Machine specific protocols are included below for reference**

Machine specific recons (axial ranges given above for machine variability):

**\*Soft tissue (ST) Kernel, machine-specific thickness (axial):**

- GE = 2.5 mm

- Siemens = 2 mm
- Toshiba = 2 mm

## General Comments

### NOTE:

Use of IV contrast is preferred for most indications *aside from*: pulmonary nodule follow-up, HRCT, lung cancer screening, and in patients with a contraindication to iodinated contrast (see below).

### Contrast Relative Contraindications

- **Severe contrast allergy**: anaphylaxis, laryngospasm, severe bronchospasm
  - If there is history of severe contrast allergy to IV contrast, avoid administration of oral contrast
- **Acute kidney injury (AKI)**: Creatinine increase of greater than 30% over baseline
  - Reference hospital protocol (creatinine cut-off may vary)
- **Chronic kidney disease (CKD) stage 4 or 5** (eGFR < 30 mL/min per 1.73 m<sup>2</sup>) **NOT** on dialysis
  - Reference hospital protocol

### Contrast Allergy Protocol

- Per hospital protocol
- Discuss with radiologist as necessary

### Hydration Protocol

- For eGFR **30-45 mL/min** per 1.73 m<sup>2</sup>: Follow approved hydration protocol

### IV Contrast (where indicated)

- Isovue 370 is the default intravenous contrast agent
  - See specific protocols for contrast volume and injection rate
- If Isovue 370 is unavailable:
  - Osmolality 350-370 (i.e., Omnipaque 250): Use same volume as Isovue 370
  - Osmolality 380-320 (i.e., Isovue 300, Visipaque): Use indicated volume + **25 mL** (*not to exceed 125 mL total contrast*)

### Oral Contrast

- Dilutions to be performed per site/hospital policy (unless otherwise listed)
- Volumes to be given per site/hospital policy (unless otherwise listed)
- TRA-MINW document is available for reference if necessary (see website)

### Brief Summary

- Chest only
  - ✓ Chest W, Chest WO
  - ✓ CTPE
  - ✓ HRCT
  - ✓ Low Dose Screening/Nodule
    - None
  
- Pelvis only
  - ✓ Pelvis W, Pelvis WO
    - Water, full instructions as indicated
  
- Routine, excluding chest only and pelvis only
  - ✓ Abd W, Abd WO
  - ✓ Abd/Pel W, Abd/Pel WO
  - ✓ Chest/Abd W, Chest/Abd WO
  - ✓ Chest/Abd/Pel W, Chest/Abd/Pel WO
  - ✓ Neck/Chest/Abd/Pel W, Neck/Chest Abd Pel WO
  - ✓ CTPE + Abd/Pel W
    - TRA-MINW offices: Dilute Isovue-370
    - Hospital sites:
      - ED: Water, if possible
      - Inpatient: prefer Dilute Isovue 370
        - Gastrografin OK if Isovue unavailable
        - Avoid Barium (Readi-Cat)
      - FHS/MHS Outpatient: Gastrografin and/or Barium (Readi-Cat)
  
- Multiphase abdomen/pelvis
  - ✓ Liver, pancreas
    - Water, full instructions as indicated
  
  - ✓ Renal, adrenal
    - None
  
- CTA abdomen/pelvis
  - ✓ Mesenteric ischemia, acute GI bleed, endograft
    - Water, full instructions as indicated
  
- Enterography
  - Breeza, full instructions as indicated
  
- Esophogram

- Dilute Isovue 370, full instructions as indicated
- Cystogram, Urogram
  - None
- Venogram
  - Water, full instructions as indicated