



**Urologic Consultants**  
of Southeastern Pennsylvania

### **DESCRIPTION OF CAT SCAN OF KIDNEYS**

The CAT scan or computerized axial tomogram is a special x-ray of the abdomen and kidney using a very sophisticated computer with a rotating x-ray head. To help us see all the structures more clearly, you will be asked to swallow a special liquid containing barium before the procedure as well as an injection of dye. We will get a good look at most of the abdominal structures including the kidneys, liver, spleen, and the lymph nodes surrounding the large abdominal vessels. It is especially helpful to us for locating kidney tumors and enlarged lymph nodes. The picture is actually generated on a computer so that the results are not always ready immediately like simple X-rays.

### **POSSIBLE RISKS OF CAT SCAN OF KIDNEYS**

Because a dye is injected the possibility of an allergic reaction is present. A physician will be in attendance and will administer the proper therapy if needed. You will be exposed to small amounts of radiation. (Tell us before the procedure if you are pregnant.)

### **PREPARATION FOR CAT SCAN OF KIDNEYS**

Abdominal cat scan prep -- liquids may be taken up to the time of the scan. But no solid food can be taken for eight hours prior to the exam. Medications may be taken whenever necessary. After the test you should drink plenty of fluids. If the radiologist gives you barium before the test a mild laxative might be needed to wash the barium out (Milk of Magnesia is okay).