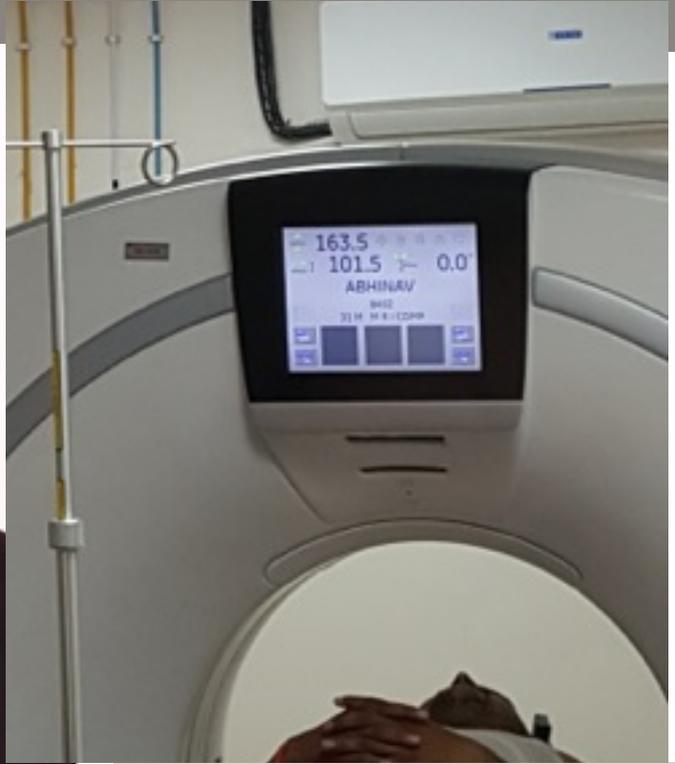


# How do you choose Radiology provider?



The results in radiology depend both on 'man and machine'. Though it's a daunting task for a common consumer to determine the competence and efficiency of a radiologist, a fair attempt can be made to know about the equipment the radiologist works with. I encourage consumers to ask the following set of questions with their radiology service providers to gauge the equipment they have at their disposal.

1. Ultrasound and Doppler scan - do you have 3D functionality in it? This 3D application may not be necessary in arriving at a right diagnosis, but availability in the equipment makes one feel more confident of the capabilities of the device.

(ultrasound scan of heart is called echocardiogram.)

2. X-ray (radiogram) - Do you have digital (true digital/CR-Computed Radiography)?

3. CT (CAT) scan - Do you have 64 slice scanner? Any scanner with 64 slice or more (128, 256 etc) capability is what a radiologist prefers.

These numbers refer to speed of image acquisition by the device.

4. MRI scan: Do you have 1.5 T scanner? Any scanner of field strength of 1.5 T or more (3 T, 7 T) fits in current standards of practice.

T (Tesla) - a unit of strength of magnetic field.

Among these diagnostic tools, X-ray and CT have hazard of radiation exposure. Generally ultrasound and MRI are safe and free of adverse effects.