



CT Coronary Angiogram

What is a CT Coronary Angiography?

Computed Tomography (CT) Coronary Angiography (CTCA) is a type of CT that looks at the arteries of the heart (the coronary arteries). It will detect plaque that is narrowing or blocking the coronary arteries. It can determine any abnormalities of the arteries you may have been born with and it is frequently used in following patients who have had bypass surgery or who have had stents put into their arteries.

What preparation is required?

No Caffeine containing products for 24 HOURS prior to the scan. This includes tea, coffee, cola beverages, all fizzy soft drinks, all energy drinks (e.g. Mother, Red Bull), chocolate, red wine etc.

No Viagra (or equivalent medications such as Levitra or Cialis) for 24 HOURS prior to your scan.

Fasting: No food for 3 HOURS before your scan time, but please drink 1ltr of water 1.5hrs before your appointment time (you can empty your bladder when needed).

No Smoking for 3 HOURS prior to your scan.

No Strenuous Exercise on the morning of your scan.

Medications: DO NOT STOP taking any medications, unless specifically told to do so. This MUST be confirmed by YOUR Doctor.

What is the contrast injected?

The contrast injected is the normal X-ray dye used for routine CT scans. If you have known sensitivity to this dye, you need to notify us as we may need to take extra precautions. When injected, it is common to experience a metallic taste in your mouth and a warm feeling throughout your body and maybe even the sensation you want to go to the toilet. These feelings are normal and will go away in a few seconds.

How long will the procedure take?

The scan is extremely quick, but preparation and observation before and after the scan means that you should expect to be in the radiology department for up to 1-2 hours.

What documentation is required?

Bring your referral and any relevant previous xray images for comparison. Also bring your Medicare card, Pension or Healthcare card or Veteran's Affairs card details if applicable. Also:

- A list of any medications you take (including vitamins and herbal preparations)
- Asthma puffer; if asthmatic (take as prescribed)

Can I drive home after the procedure?

Usually you can go about your normal activities. However, in rare circumstances you may need assistance.

What are the potential side effects?

Reactions to the IV contrast agent are rare and usually minor eg mild rash, sneezing, itchiness and hives. If you have had a previous allergic reaction to contrast agent or you have a strong history of allergy to other things (like foods, pollens or dust), you should inform us before having the procedure. The Radiologist (Doctor) is at hand at all times supervising the procedure.

What do I do after the procedure?

You should drink plenty of fluids after the procedure to help flush the contrast agent from your body.

Diabetics on Metformin-based medications may need a follow-up blood test 48 hours after the procedure to check their kidney function has not changed before restarting the medications.

Who will be reporting my scan?

Examinations are reported by our Radiologists Credentialed by the 'Conjoint Committee for the Recognition of Training in CT Coronary Angiography'. Reporting usually takes a minimum of 24hrs after your examination is completed.