



Questionnaire for Patients

Do / did you have:

- Chest pain
- Heart disease / coronary artery disease / angina / heart attack / heart surgery / stents
- High cholesterol or lipids
- Coronary angiogram
- Stress test
- Hypertension / high cholesterol / diabetes / heart or kidney failure
- Smoking
- Family history of coronary artery disease
- Heart arrhythmia (atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, heart block, bundle branch block, sick sinus syndrome)
- Drug or food allergies
- Previous allergic reaction to IV dye injection
- Cardiac pacemaker
- What is your weight?
- What is your resting pulse rate?

Fees

At the time of making your appointment, our staff will advise you of any approximate fees payable on the day of your examination.

Most diagnostic imaging procedures are eligible for a Medicare Rebate.

Please ensure you bring the following to your appointment:

- Medicare Card
- Healthcare Card
- Pension Card
- Previous films or scans relating to this procedure

Your Appointment

Date

Time

Special Instructions

Central

Bridge Road Imaging 9242 4888

Northern

Brunswick Diagnostic Imaging 9383 6266
Northern Hospital Radiology 8405 9600

Eastern

Healthcare Imaging Knox 9210 7100

For further information please go to our website:
www.healthcareimaging.com.au

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HISVBRH009

CT Coronary Angiogram



a guide for patients



Healthcare Imaging Services

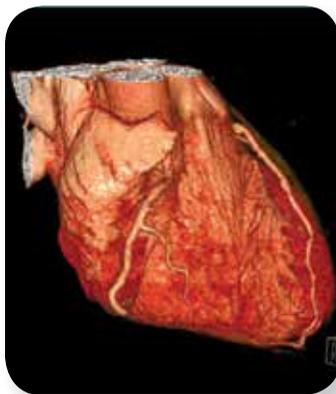
What is it?

- CT Coronary Angiography is a new type of CT scan which shows the coronary arteries of the heart.
- It is an outpatient procedure, which is rapid, safe, accurate and non-invasive.
- Unlike conventional catheter coronary angiography, CT angiography does not require hospitalisation, puncturing an artery and insertion of catheters into the heart.
- We installed the first 64-slice CT scanner in Melbourne in 2005 and have been among the first to perform routine cardiac CT in Australia.
- Our Dual Source Definition Flash CT is the fastest and lowest radiation dose scanner currently available.
- It can scan the heart in a fraction of a second and emits radiation equal to about 6 chest x-rays or 6 months of natural background radiation.

What does the CT Coronary Angiogram show?

- The scan shows whether the coronary arteries are normal or abnormal.
- Abnormal coronary arteries may show regions of narrowing, deposits of plaque or a congenital abnormality.
- Certain types of plaque may have a high association with myocardial infarction (heart attack).
- Many of the scans we perform are normal; some show minor abnormalities and a few show a major abnormality which may need further treatment.
- Other cardiac or non-cardiac abnormalities (eg lung cancer) show up occasionally.

The value of the scan is that you will know whether your coronary arteries are normal or not, whether you need any treatment such as lipid lowering therapy or surgery and whether it is safe for you to exercise.



Before the CT Scan

- For most patients no special preparation is required.
- Take all your normal medications – they do not interfere with the scan.
- Please arrive in the department 30 minutes before the scan.
- It is important that you arrive and remain relaxed so that your heart rate (pulse) remains as slow as possible – this improves the quality of the scan.
- Do not have any appointments or a tight schedule planned immediately after the scan, as this tends to speed the heart rate up.
- Bring all your regular medications that you might need, especially relaxants, asthma sprays and beta-blockers.
- Always check with the site when making your appointment for any special instructions

On arrival in the Radiology Department

- After registration you will have to fill in a short questionnaire. You can do this prior to arriving (*on the back of this brochure*).
- Your heart rate and rhythm may be checked with a monitor.
- A plastic cannula will be inserted into an arm vein for injection of contrast medium (dye) during the scan.

During the CT Scan

- ECG leads will be taped to your chest to synchronise the scan to your heart beat.
- An under-the-tongue nitrate spray or tablet may be used just before the scan. This may result in a mild, transient headache.
- Some patients are given IV Beta blockers to slow heart down to regulate its speed before the scan.
- You will be asked to lie absolutely still and to hold your breath for no more than a few seconds.
- This is the most critical part of the scan, as ANY movement (such as breathing, swallowing, twitching etc) during the acquisition will degrade the images.
- An IV injection of contrast medium (dye) during the scan may give you a transient “hot flush” for a few seconds. This is the same dye used for all CT scans, IVPs and angiograms.

After the CT Scan

- You will be free to go a few minutes after the scan and will be able to drive and resume normal activities.
- Results will be available to your doctor within 3 days.
- The IV contrast medium is colourless and is excreted in the urine.

Contra-indications to CT Coronary Angiography

Some patients may not be suitable for CT Coronary Angiography, or may need special preparation.

Please consult the Radiology Department.

- Severe asthma
- Allergy to IV contrast medium
- Inability to lie still and hold your breath
- Kidney impairment
- Diabetics on Metformin with kidney impairment
- Extreme obesity
- Severe claustrophobia

Complications

The vast majority of such examinations are uncomplicated.

Complications can occur occasionally:

- Failed examination. The scan can be unsatisfactory for any one of several reasons and may need to be repeated or abandoned.
- Extravasation of contrast medium. The vein receiving the IV contrast injection under pressure can leak or burst. A painful swelling can result around the injection site. This generally resolves with massage, compression, elevation and ice packs in a few hours and does not leave any permanent damage.
- Serious skin injury is possible but extremely rare.
- Asthma / wheezing / rash are rare.
- Nausea / vomiting are rare.
- Serious allergic reaction to IV contrast medium is extremely rare and may need urgent treatment.