



What is CT CORONARY ANGIOGRAM?

It is a heart imaging test that screens your heart and blood vessels. It can detect coronary artery disease – blocked or narrowed arteries in the heart caused by build-up of cholesterol and fatty deposits (called plaques) on the inner walls of the arteries. Once these plaques clog the arteries, it can restrict blood flow to the heart muscle which may result in a greater risk of heart attack.



Why is a CT Coronary Angiogram performed?

Your doctor may order a CT Angiogram to look for certain conditions including:

- Congenital heart disease, or birth defects in the heart
- Build-up of a hard substance known as lipid plaque that may be blocking your coronary arteries
- Defects or injury to the heart's four primary valves
- Blood clots within the heart's chambers
- Tumours in or on the heart



What is Intravenous (IV) Contrast?

To ensure defined visualisation of the internal organs, outline blood vessels and body tissues on the scan, contrast is given intravenously via an injection. It also helps to better detect any abnormalities present. A plastic cannula will be inserted into one of your veins in your arm by our nurses and the contrast will then be injected.



How does the IV contrast feel like?

A warm sensation may be felt in your body upon injection as well as a metallic taste in the mouth. However, this is temporary and should disappear within a few minutes. **If you experience it during the scan, please do not move and continue to follow the instructions from the radiographer.**



A CT Angiogram will allow early detection of possible issues that will affect the heart such as heart attack.



What should I take note of before the scan?

For patients who are asthmatic, you are advised to bring along your inhaler.

If you are on Viagra, Cialis and Levitra, please stop medication 24 hours prior to the scan



PLEASE NOTE ON THE FOLLOWING

✓ *If you are pregnant*, please inform our staff. It is advisable to consult your doctor for an alternative test.

For CT scans with Contrast injection:

✓ *If you have any kidney problems*, your doctor may advise you to perform the scan without contrast.

✓ *If you are 65 years old and above*, please provide us with your creatinine report done within the past 6 months on the day of scan.

✓ *For diabetics*, if you are on Metformin/ Glucophage, please stop medication on the day of the exam and resume taking it 2 days after the scan.

✓ *If you have any history of drug or food allergies*, please inform our staff. You may be administered with hydrocortisone, a steroid to manage/minimise allergy reactions.

You may be given a beta-blocker before the scan. This medication slows down your heart rate so that clearer images can be acquired.

As intravenous contrast is needed, we will obtain consent from you prior to the scan. Please let our staff know if you have had any form of contrast allergies before.



What can I expect during my CT scan?

- Small, sticky discs called electrodes are placed onto your chest.
- The CT scan will generate images of your body's organs from multiple angles, to ensure images are captured accurately, it is essential for you to remain still throughout the scan.
- You may be required to hold your breath for a few seconds during the scan. Our radiographer will provide you the breathing instructions which is important for you to follow.
- The scan usually lasts for 10 to 15 minutes.



What should I do after the scan?

- Do drink plenty of water after the scan to help the body expel the contrast naturally.
- If you are taking medication for diabetes Eg: Metformin, medication must be withheld for 48 hours after receiving contrast.

You should let your doctor know if you experience any of the following symptoms post scan:



Itching and red spots on the skin



Swollen mouth or eyes



Difficulty breathing

Our specialised radiologists will review the findings and send them to your doctor. Your doctor may review the radiology report as a starting point to plan your treatment.



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