

Department of Radiology

CT Coronary Angiogram (CTCA)



What is a CT coronary angiogram?

CT coronary angiogram is a procedure to look for any narrowing in the blood vessels in your heart. During the scan, a dye will be injected into your arm and a CT scan of your chest region will be done to take images of your heart, which involves ionising radiation. The scan itself is very short (approximately 10 seconds), however, the preparation time before the appointment may take more than 1 hour, depending on your heart rate.

Before the procedure

Prior to your appointment, your doctor may prescribe certain medications. Please take these as prescribed.

- **Please fast for 4 hours prior to the scan.** You should take all your routine prescribed medications except for your diabetic medicine.
- Please avoid any caffeinated drinks.
- Please turn up at Radiology Reception Counter 30 minutes prior to your appointment.
- Inform the staff if you have asthma or take diabetic medication.

You **must** inform the attending staff or doctor if you are;

- Pregnant or likely to be pregnant.

During the procedure

- A cannula (small plastic tubing) will be inserted into a blood vessel in your arm for dye to be injected.
- ECG electrodes will be placed on your chest to monitor your heart rate. If your heart rate is high (above 65 beats/min), medications will be given to be taken orally, to reduce the heart rate as this will help obtain better scan images. This medication may take up to an hour to work.
- When your heart rate is at a suitable level, a tablet will be placed under your tongue to dilate your blood vessels, to help us assess them better.
- The scan will only take 10 seconds. It is important you hold your breath for this duration so that the best possible images can be obtained.

Please note that if your heart rate remains persistently high, we may not be able to proceed with the scan and your appointment may be rescheduled to another day. You may also be advised to go for a different procedure by your doctor.

After the procedure

- You can drive yourself home and return to normal activities immediately.
- Drink lots of water for the next few days to flush the dye from your body.
- If you feel unwell, you should seek medical attention.



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Information correct as at May 2023.

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