

CORONARY CTA

This exam is intended to image and evaluate the vessels of the heart using the CT scanner and an IV injection.

You need to fast for 3 hours before your exam. For 12 hours before the exam, do not drink any products with caffeine (like coffee, tea or soda). You must also abstain from the decaf version of these products.

You can take all your medications as prescribed, including your beta-blockers. You must have transportation to and from your appointment.

On the day of the exam, please arrive at the office 1 hour before your exam is scheduled.

After you are registered, you will be escorted to a patient prep area. The nurse will take your blood pressure and pulse to determine your heart rate. In Coronary CT imaging, image quality is dependent on heart rate. In order to lower your heart rate to an acceptable range, an oral beta blocker, Metoprolol, may be administered. This medication may take up to 1 hour to be effective and the nurse will monitor your heart rate during this time.

Once your heart rate reaches an acceptable range, the nurse will insert an IV into your arm that will be used to inject the contrast material during the scan. Once your IV has been inserted, you will be brought into the CT scan suite. The technologists will put EKG leads on your chest to continuously monitor your blood pressure and pulse. The IV will be hooked up to the contrast injector and your arms will rest over your head.

After you are positioned, the technologists will begin the scan. You will feel the table move in and out of the scanner and you will hear breathing instructions. Your head will remain outside of the CT gantry at all times. A series of images will be taken before and during the contrast injection. The technologists are able to hear and see you the entire time you are in the scanner.

The scan will take approximately 10 minutes. When completed, the technologist will remove the IV and discharge you. We suggest you increase fluids slightly for the remainder of the day. The images will be evaluated by the Radiologist, and a report will be sent to your doctor who will contact you to discuss the exam results.