



Coronary CT Angiography

Radiology department

We wish you a speedy recovery!

The Radiology Department team

RESPONSIBLE PUBLISHER



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December, 2021

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WHAT IS A CT CORONARY ?

Your doctor has requested a CT coronary. This examination is only performed after direct referral by a cardiologist.

The radiologist will use a CT scanner to make a first set of images of your chest. They will then make digital reconstructions of these to create more detailed images of the heart and the coronary arteries, the blood vessels that supply the heart muscle with oxygen.

This will allow them to assess the anatomy of the arteries and detect atheromatosis or any associated constriction of the coronary arteries.

PREPARATION

On the day of the examination we ask you not to drink caffeinated beverages such as coffee or cola.

You may take any medication you need with a bit of water.

Please bear in mind the following important considerations:

- If you are allergic to contrast media, be sure to report this when making your appointment.
- If you are pregnant, or may be, please inform the radiographer, as the X-rays may be harmful to the unborn child.

THE EXAMINATION

You have to register at the radiology department at least fifteen minutes before the time of your appointment.

Before the examination, a nurse will insert an IV catheter in your elbow.

They'll also connect you to the scanner's ECG monitor to track your heart rhythm.

You'll be given nitroglycerin in the form of a melting tablet to place under your tongue. This will dilate the arteries slightly, making them more visible in the images.

If your heart rhythm is too high to allow sufficient image quality, the radiologist may decide to administer a beta blocker via your IV catheter, which will lower your heart rhythm.

During the examination, there will be a few times where you're asked to hold your breath for a duration of about ten seconds.

When the contrast medium is injected via your IV catheter, you may experience a sensation of warmth throughout your body. This is perfectly normal.

In total, the examination usually lasts for about 20 minutes.

AFTER THE EXAMINATION

If you were given a beta blocker, you may be asked to wait in the waiting room for 15 minutes. This allows the nurse to ensure that you are alert enough to return home safely.

After the examination you may eat and drink again as you normally would.

RESULT

The images are processed and interpreted by the radiologist. This will take some time.

A full report is sent to the cardiologist who requested the examination.

He or she will discuss the results with you.

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