



Live well. Stay well.

CARDIAC CT ANGIOGRAPHY PATIENT WORKFLOW

Prior to the exam

- Please allow approximately 2 hours for the entire exam to be completed.
- Please discontinue the use of Cialis, Levitra, and Viagra 36 hours prior to your appointment. These medications taken with nitroglycerin could lower your blood pressure significantly.
- Do not consume any form of caffeine 12 hours prior to your study (i.e., soda, tea, coffee, and chocolate).
- Patients who are still menstruating must have a pregnancy test prior to the study.
- Drink plenty of fluids prior to your test; stop drinking 2 hours prior to your scheduled appointment.
- Do not eat anything 4 hours prior to your study.
- Refrain from any exercise or strenuous physical activity before your scheduled appointment.
- Take all of your medications--especially beta-blockers and calcium channel blockers--as prescribed by your physician.

During the scan

- You will be escorted to the holding area where you will be prepared for the exam.
- An RN will insert an IV and monitor your vital signs throughout your exam.
- You may have to receive a medication called beta-blockers to help control your heart rate. Once the heart rate is at an acceptable range, as determined by the supervising cardiologist, the scan will be started.
- During the scan you will be laying on your back with your arms propped over you head--we will make you as comfortable as possible. The test requires that the table move in and out of the CT machine several times during your exam. This is when you will receive the contrast dye.
- You may have to receive a dose of nitroglycerine during your exam, unless contraindicated.

After the scan

- After your scan is completed, you will be transported back to the holding area. The RN will continue to monitor your vital signs.
- The cardiologist will evaluate your study and a full report will be sent to your referring physician.
- Drink plenty of fluids throughout the day following your exam to flush the contrast dye out of your system.