



## CORONARY CT ANGIOGRAPHY

### What it is

Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA) is an X-ray based scan of the coronary arteries. It uses CT technology to acquire images of the arteries of the heart, which are then reconstructed into 3-D images. This will help directly visualize the anatomy of the vessels and the degree of plaque build-up and calcification. It involves a small amount of radiation and requires intravenous contrast. This is an excellent test with respect to ruling out coronary artery disease (CAD).

### Performance/Preparation

You will be asked to lie down on a table connected to the CT scanner and ECG electrodes will be attached to your chest to monitor your heart rate and rhythm. Your doctor will have prescribed a medication to slow down your heart rate that should be taken one hour prior to the scan. The technologist may give you more medication intravenously to slow down the heart as well as potentially medication under your tongue (nitrates) to open up blood vessels. Contrast dye will be injected through the intravenous during the test. The test is generally avoided in pregnant women. Please alert your physician if you have an allergy to iodinated contrast dye.

### Duration

The scan takes about 5-10 minutes to complete.

### Medications

Please take your medications as prescribed including the beta-blocker (heart-slowing medication) one hour prior to the CT. Please do not take any medications for erectile dysfunction for 24 hours (Viagra, Levitra) or 48 hours (Cialis) prior to the CT scan as nitrates may be administered.

### Driving

There are no restrictions to private or commercial driving following the CT scan.