

Computerised Tomography (CT) Coronary Angiography

Cardiology

Introduction

You will have been referred for this test by a member of the Cardiology Department. A CT (Computerised Tomography) scan is a special X-ray test that can take detailed images of the heart to assess the heart structure and heart arteries. This will allow us to assess any narrowing or blockage in the heart arteries.

What are the benefits of the CT scan?

The results of the scan will allow your Cardiologist to diagnose a narrowing and decide on further investigations that may be required and available treatment.

What are the risks of the CT scan?

There is a small risk of an allergic reaction to the dye. Please contact the department on 01902 695924 before the scan if you have had a reaction to dye used in medical investigations previously. A CT scan delivers a small amount of radiation. The amount of radiation used in the scan is kept to a minimum and we believe the benefits to you of having the scan outweigh the small risk from the radiation.

Are there any alternatives?

CT coronary angiography is "non-invasive" so reduces any risks of complications compared with invasive coronary angiography (when dye is injected directly into the heart arteries via a catheter in the artery in the wrist or groin). Other cardiac tests such as echocardiography and cardiac magnetic resonance imaging can give complimentary information about the heart function.

How is the scan performed?

The Radiographer will ask you to lie on a bed that will move through the scanner. A heart tracing monitor will be attached to you via sticky pads on your chest. This will allow the scan to be triggered at a certain point during your heart beat. A cannula (needle) will be inserted into your arm to enable a dye to be injected that allows us to see the heart arteries clearly.

During the scan we will ask you to hold your breath. In order to get clear images of the heart arteries, your heart rate will need to be controlled. You may have been given tablets (called either ivabradine or metoprolol) from clinic to slow your heartbeat for the scan, please remember to take these before your test as prescribed.

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

If your heartbeat is still too fast, we may give an injection to slow the heart rate down. We will also spray a medication under your tongue to help get clear images of the heart arteries. The scan itself takes about 15 minutes, but if we need to give you an injection of medication, you may need to stay in the department for up to an hour.

Female patients:

If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant, please tell us before the scan.

People with Diabetes:

Please contact the Radiology Department if you are taking metformin.

Medications:

Please bring all your medications with you to your appointment. Please do not take Viagra for at least 24 hours before the scan as this may dangerously react with medications given for the scan. All other medications can be taken as normal.

What happens after the scan?

After your scan you can resume all normal activities. You can eat and drink as normal and you will be able to drive as the scan does not cause drowsiness.

When do I get the results?

You will not get the results of the scan on the day you attend. The scan will be reviewed and a written report sent to the Consultant who referred you, this can take up to 10 working days. Your Consultant will then write to you with the results or arrange a follow up appointment to discuss the results of the scan.

What should I do if I have a query about my appointment?

If you have any queries about your scan or wish to alter the appointment please contact the department on 01902 695924.

Where can I get further information?

Websites:

For general information about Radiology Departments, visit the Royal College of Radiologists' website: www.goingfora.com

Transport information

Zone A A2 Radiology Department

The nearest car park is P6 or P5 car park. Please allow enough time to park as our car parking areas may be busy. Car parking is "pay as you leave". There are designated spaces for disabled.

Public transport: details of buses coming to the hospital are on our website www.royalwolverhamptonhospitals.nhs.uk or telephone Centro Hotline on 0121 200 2700.

If you need and interpreter, please let us know as soon as we receive your appointment and we will arrange one.

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。