



Appointment date:

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Time:

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Location:

- Calvary North Adelaide
- Calvary Central Districts
- Flinders Private Hospital

Notes:

Patient Information Handout

CT CORONARY

A CT coronary angiogram is a non-invasive dynamic 3D imaging test that looks at the arteries that supply blood to your heart muscle. This procedure is mainly used to check your heart for any evidence of coronary artery disease and/or to look for other abnormalities of the heart muscle or heart valves.

During the scan, ECG leads are connected to your chest and an x-ray contrast dye is injected into a vein (usually in your arm) to highlight the blood vessels.

BOOKING YOUR APPOINTMENT

Please call our friendly staff on 8402 0200. You may request a site convenient to you; otherwise the booking staff can suggest your nearest location.

WHAT TO BRING

Radiology referral
Medicare card
Healthcare/Concession card (if applicable)
Previous relevant imaging
Other relevant documents

PREPARATION FOR YOUR STUDY

You must avoid stimulants for the 24 hours prior to the scan, including caffeine. Please do not drink coffee, any teas, soft drinks or energy drinks. Chocolate and smoking should also be avoided. Also avoid strenuous exercise prior to the scan. These measures are to assist in keeping your heart rate low.

Please fast for the 4 hours prior to the scan. You may continue to drink water.

Do not take tablets for erectile dysfunction for 72 hours prior to the scan (viagra, sildenafil, cialis, levitra). These medications can interact with those used during the scan.

Please bring a list of your current medications to your appointment.

Two piece clothing is recommended for convenience.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT ON THE DAY?

Please check in with our reception staff on arrival. You will then be taken to a change room where you will be given a gown. This is to allow heart rate monitoring leads to be attached to your chest, as the scanner will operate in time with your heart beat.





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Both your heart rate and your blood pressure will be checked. For best results we aim for a heart rate of 65 beats per minute or less.

If your heart rate is too high you may be asked to take a medication to further slow your heart rate (most often a beta blocker), and you will need to wait while this takes effect. If your heart rate is not controlled on arrival it may take an hour or so to achieve the required heart rate.

The examination requires the injection of contrast (an x-ray dye), which is needed to opacify the arteries of the heart. The staff will complete a safety check list with you to make sure you have no allergies or other issues that impact the safety of giving the dye.

At the time of the scan you will be positioned on the scanner bed and the monitoring leads attached. A small cannula/drip will be inserted into your arm for the contrast. Sometimes a further dose of beta blocker will be injected into the veins, if required.

Immediately prior to the scan you will be given a medication called GTN under your tongue. This medication helps open out the heart arteries for the scan. Some people may experience a passing headache from this medication. The bed will pass through the scanner opening and you will be asked to breath hold for a few seconds as the images are obtained. As the contrast dye is injected it is normal to feel a warm flush through your body. The scan itself is very quick.

The images will be reviewed for quality, and if satisfactory you will be taken to rest for a further 30 minutes. This is a safety measure to ensure there is no contrast reaction, and that you feel normal prior to leaving us.

At the end of this time the cannula will be removed from your arm. You can then continue your normal day. There are usually no significant after effects of the scan.

Our radiologists will write a report for your doctor who will be able to explain the results and implications for you.

You can expect a total of 60-120 minutes to complete your scan with us. The length of your stay with us is in large part determined by the time needed for heart rate control.

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