

by a Cardiac Nurse Practitioner and a radiology technologist who will perform the scan.

### **During the Test**

- The technologist will help you lie in the correct position on the examination table, with your arms raised over your head.
- A contrast material will be injected into your vein so the imaging physician can view the heart and blood vessels on the CTA Image.
- It is very important that you lie as still as possible during the entire procedure. Movement could blur the images, to avoid this you will be asked to hold your breath for 5-7 seconds.
- After the contrast agent is injected, you may feel flushed, or you might have a metallic taste in your mouth. These are common reactions. If you experience shortness of breath or any unusual symptoms, please tell the technologist immediately.

### **After the Test**

Generally you can resume your usual activities and normal diet with increased hydration the day of the test.

A board certified cardiologist will interpret your test to determine plan of care.



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# CORONARY CTA

(Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography)



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## What is coronary computed tomography angiography (CCTA)?

Coronary computed tomography angiography CCTA is a noninvasive diagnostic test that produces detailed 3D images of the arteries in your heart to detect abnormalities in how blood flows through your heart and to diagnose cardiovascular disease. It is sometimes used to determine overall function of the heart. An abnormality of the arteries may include plaque buildup, which may consist of calcium, cholesterol or fat that can lead to cardiovascular diseases like coronary artery disease or heart failure. During the test, a nontoxic contrast dye is injected through an intravenous (IV) line in the hand or arm, and computed tomography (CT), a combination of X-rays and computer technology, is used to produce images from inside the body.

## Why might I need CCTA?

You may need this medical test if you have cardiovascular symptoms and/or an abnormal cardiac testing that require additional evaluation. Healthcare providers may use the information from this test to learn more about your condition and to decide the best way to treat you.

## What are the risks of CCTA?

There is always a slight risk for cancer from repeated exposure to radiation, but the benefits of getting an accurate diagnosis

generally outweigh the risks. The amount of radiation used during CTA is considered minimal, so the risk for radiation exposure is low. No radiation remains in your body after a CT scan. Other risks include:

Allergic reactions. Always let your ordering provider and radiologist know if you have any history of allergies or an allergy to contrast material. Reactions to contrast are uncommon. If you have any history of allergic reactions, you may be given medicine to lessen the risk for an allergic reaction before the test.

Tissue damage. If a large amount of contrast material leaks around your IV site, it can irritate your skin or the blood vessels and nerves just under your skin. It is important to tell your radiologist or radiology technician if you have any pain when the contrast material is injected through your IV.

Angiography contrast material can damage your kidneys, so you may not be able to have this test if you have severe kidney disease or diabetes, please speak with your ordering provider and/or nephrologist.

If you are breastfeeding, you will need to wait for 24 hours after this test before nursing your baby. If you are pregnant or suspect that you may be pregnant, you should notify your healthcare provider or radiology technician.

There may be other risks, depending on your specific medical condition. Be sure to discuss any concerns with your healthcare provider or

radiology technician before the test.

**\*\* If you are anxious or claustrophobic, please let your provider know ahead of time. \*\***

## Before, During and After the Test

### Prior to Test:

- If your healthcare provider wanted you to complete blood work prior testing, we recommend getting this completed within 2-4 weeks prior to testing.
- Please avoid consuming caffeine 24 hours prior to testing.
- Four hours immediately before your test, take nothing by mouth. You may take your medications with a small amount of water with the exception of your oral diabetic medications.
- Please plan to arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time so your test can be completed on schedule.
- Please plan to allow for 2-3 hours to complete the test.
- When you arrive you will be greeted by one of our registered nurses, placed on a heart monitor to evaluate heart rate and an IV will be started.
- If your heart rate is above targeted level, you may be given medication to lower your heart rate to achieve accurate images.
- Once target heart rate is achieved, you'll be taken to CT Scan and will be greeted

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For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 609.463.CAPE