

## Patient information

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### CT (Computerised Tomography) Coronary Angiography Scan

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#### What is a CT coronary angiography scan?

This type of scan uses X-rays and a computer to produce detailed images of many structures inside the body, including the internal organs, blood vessels and bones.

A CT coronary angiography scan takes pictures of your heart and coronary arteries. This allows us to see any narrowing or blockage of the arteries around your heart.

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#### Why is this exam beneficial?

The results of the scan will help your doctor diagnose any health problems you have been experiencing and decide on further treatment for you.

#### What are the alternatives?

CT coronary angiography is a non-invasive exam, which reduces the risk of complications. Other tests including MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) and echo scans provide information on how well your heart is functioning, but only a CT coronary angiography scan gives us enough information about the structure of your heart.

#### What happens during the scan?

You will be asked to lie on a bed that will move through the scanner. We will then place electrodes (small sticky patches connected to leads) on your chest.

The electrodes are connected to a monitor that records the rhythm and electrical activity of your heart. We can then trigger the scanner to take a picture at a certain point during your heartbeat. This gives us high quality images of your heart and arteries.

A special dye is then injected into a small vein in your arm so that we can see your heart and arteries clearly.

It can be difficult for us to get a clear picture if your heart is beating too quickly. We will check your heart rate when you arrive and if it is faster than the ideal rate, we may give you some medication to slow it down. This may be in the form of a tablet or an injection and can take up to an hour to work. As soon as your heart rate is beating at the right pace, we will perform the scan.

To help us get a clear picture of your heart, we will ask you to hold your breath for a few seconds during the scan. We will discuss this with you before your scan so you know exactly what to do.

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### How long does the scan take?

The scan takes around 15 minutes. However, you may have to stay with us for over an hour if we have to give you any medication.

### After your Scan

The medication can make you a little drowsy for up to a few hours after the scan. Please avoid driving or cycling to or from your appointment. It is also a good idea to ask someone to come with you to the appointment.

### Female patients

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

### People with diabetes

You do not need to change your diet or treatment. Please contact the CT scanning department if you are taking Metformin.

### Is there any risk from the radiation?

The amount of radiation used in this scan is kept to a minimum. We believe that the benefits of the scan far outweigh the risk to your health.

### What happens if I do not have the scan?

Your doctor may not have all the information needed to make a diagnosis. This may affect the type of treatment he or she can suggest for you.

### Cancellations

If you are unable to attend your appointment for any reason, please let us know in advance. We can then give your appointment time to another patient and arrange a new appointment for you.

### Getting the Results

A report will be sent to the doctor requesting your scan, which is available the next working day. Your doctor will be able to discuss the results with you at your next appointment.

### Useful Contacts

If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact us on 020 7351 8186 or email [diagnosticwimpole@rbht.nhs.uk](mailto:diagnosticwimpole@rbht.nhs.uk)

If you have any concerns about any aspect of the service you have received and feel unable to talk to those people responsible for your care, call PALS on 01895 826 572 or email [pals@rbht.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@rbht.nhs.uk). This is a confidential service.

*This leaflet gives you general information on your CT coronary angiography scan. It does not replace the need for individual advice from a qualified healthcare professional. Please ask if you have any questions.*