

Computer Tomography (CT) Angiogram Patient Information Sheet

What is a CT Angiogram?

CT uses x-rays with detectors and a powerful computer to produce two-dimensional and three-dimensional images of the heart and its blood vessels. We use the newest type of CT technology called “Multislice CT”, which covers the heart with thinner slices and produces more detailed images in a shorter time.

How do I prepare for my test?

Please inform your doctor and the booking receptionist if you have diabetes, a previous allergy to contrast, kidney problems, thyroid gland problems or if you weigh more than 180 kg. You should avoid coffee and other caffeine-containing substances for 12 hours prior to the test.

Can I eat and drink before my test?

No. You need to fast for 4 hours but you are allowed to have water for your normal medications.

Do I take my medications on the day of the test?

Take all your normal medications before the test.

What happens on the day?

Present yourself to The Alfred Centre Radiology Reception desk, located on the 1st floor of The Alfred Centre. You will be admitted to the Medical Day Unit. Your blood pressure and heart rate will be checked by a nurse and an intravenous line will be inserted into your forearm to administer contrast during the test. A heart doctor will also see you before the test. It is likely that you will be prescribed tablets to slow your heart rate down in order to proceed with the test. A slow heart rate is essential to obtain clear pictures of your heart arteries. Rarely it is necessary to administer intravenous medication while you are in the CT scanner to slow your heart rate down. Your blood pressure and heart rate will be monitored regularly before and after the test.

What happens during the test?

You will be positioned lying down on your back on the CT scanner table and your intravenous line will be connected to an injector, which will administer contrast during the test. It is very important that you lie very still during the scan and follow breath-holding instructions when asked to avoid blurring of your heart images. When contrast is administered, you may feel a warm flush, which is normal and usually resolves within seconds. You will be monitored for about 1 hour following the CT scan.

How long does the test take?

The total scan takes approximately 10-20 minutes.

How will I get my results?

The CT angiogram is recorded onto a computer and reported by a Cardiologist and a Radiologist. The report is then sent to your referring doctor and a copy is placed in your medical history. Your referring doctor will discuss the results at your next appointment.

A computer tomography (CT) scanner



A 3D reconstruction of the heart arteries

