

# CT coronary angiography

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET CT05



## Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more branch details.

## Duration of examination:

CT angiography examinations take approximately 20 minutes. In some cases this may vary. However please allow 1-2 hours for pre and post-examination monitoring and observation.

## Please bring with you:

- > Your request form
- > All previous relevant imaging
- > Medicare and any Healthcare cards

## Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information on this procedure please call one of our branches.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

[bensonradiology.com.au](http://bensonradiology.com.au)

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## What is a CT coronary angiography?

CT coronary angiography uses multi-slice computed tomography (CT) technology to examine the blood vessels of the heart.

Iodinated contrast medium is used to highlight the blood vessels during the imaging phase of the examination.

## Preparation

The heart is a beating structure, hence the referring doctor will give you beta-blockers (heart medication) to slow the heart and keep it at a steady beat.

You will also be asked to fast for two hours prior to the examination.

Please continue your regular medication as normal. However please inform us if you are taking any diabetic medication, have kidney disease or have had a previous reaction to x-ray contrast.

You will need to avoid any caffeine and smoking 24 hours prior to exam and cease exercise on the day of the examination. This allows the coronary arteries to be visualised without motion artefact.

For male patients, if they are taking erectile dysfunction medication, please advise that they need to cease this for three days prior to appointment.

## What will happen during the examination?

You will be required to remove all clothing from above the waist and asked to change into a gown.

ECG leads (three dots) will be placed onto the chest to allow monitoring of the heart rate during the examination.

A small plastic IV catheter is placed into a vein of your arm. A syringe filled with contrast is placed in a mechanical pressure injector and attached to the catheter. A spray of GTN (angina medication) will be delivered under the tongue to dilate the heart arteries.

The injection process will then start. Most people experience a temporary warming sensation when the contrast is administered. This dissipates quickly. Scanning takes place at a time where the optimal visualisation of the arteries can be achieved.

You will be asked to hold your breath for the duration of the scan approximately ten seconds.

## Are there any risks?

You will receive a small dose of x-ray radiation. The benefits of detecting disease are believed to outweigh any potential risks from receiving such a small dose. **However, please advise the radiographer if you are, or think you may be pregnant.**

Problems related to the contrast injection are very rare. **However please advise us if you have had a previous reaction to x-ray contrast.** The injection will be discussed prior to the examination and you will be asked to complete a questionnaire and give your consent.

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## After the examination

You will be monitored after the examination is complete. The time required may vary, but may be up to two hours.

Patients typically can resume normal activities following this procedure.

After the scan we use powerful 3D computer workstations to evaluate the source data, generate images and create anatomic displays of the vessels which the radiologist (a specialist medical imaging doctor) uses to produce the examination report.

The scan processing and reporting takes more time than other radiology procedures due to the complicated imaging required, as well as a specialist radiologist reporting the scans. For your convenience we will deliver your films and report to your doctor.

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It is important you understand why and how we will be assisting you. If you have any questions, please call one of our branches or speak to our staff on the day of your visit.

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