

Coronary CTA (Coronary CT Angiography)

Please be aware the nurse will call you with a confirmed arrival time and pre-procedure questions prior to your appointment.

How to prepare:

Before your test:

- **No** solid foods 4 hours prior to exam
- **DO NOT** take blood pressure medication unless directed to by our nurse
- **DO NOT** take any erectile dysfunction medication for 48 hours before procedure
- Take all other medication
- If you are 60 and over, diabetic, have one kidney, or have kidney disease, you will need to have a BUN and Creatinine blood test within the last 30 days which is ordered by your doctor.

Day of Test:

- Bring your prescription, insurance card, and photo ID
- Drink 2-4 glasses of water on the morning of the exam

After the exam:

- **DO NOT** take any erectile dysfunction medication for 48 hours after the procedure

What to expect the day of the test:

- Plan to set aside 4 hours of your day. Although the scan itself may only take 15 minutes, the time it takes to lower your heart rate may take several hours.
- After check-in, your heart rate and blood pressure will be checked. It is important to have a slow heart rate to have clear images (similar to holding still when taking a picture with a camera to prevent a blurry picture). If the heart rate is elevated, you may be given oral medications to slow your heart rate. The heart rate lowering medication will be a beta blocker (metoprolol). You will change into a gown and have an intravenous (IV) catheter placed.
- Heart rate and blood pressure will be checked again after approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour. You may need more medication if your heart rate is not slow enough. Once your heart rate is at goal, you will be taken to the CT scanner.

What to expect during the scan:

- For the CT scan, you must lie flat on the scan table. Before the scan begins, we will put 4 stickers with wires on your body that attach to a heart monitor, so that we can check your heart rate at all times during the scan.
- You cannot move or breathe while we are taking pictures. You will be asked to hold your breath. For each breath-hold, we will take a set of pictures.
- During the scan, you will be given nitroglycerin under your tongue to make your coronary arteries larger and easier to see. We will inject IV contrast (dye) into your IV catheter. The contrast allows us to see the arteries in your heart better. This is the same IV contrast commonly used for CT scans of other parts of the body. The IV contrast often makes people feel warm or even hot when it is injected.

Bring relevant studies and reports to your appointment

University Radiology is able to obtain electronic images and reports for you if the previous studies were performed at our imaging centers or at one of our affiliated hospitals located across New Jersey. Please visit our website for a full listing: UniversityRadiology.com

Bring your prescription, insurance card, and photo ID

They are required for this procedure.

Payment

You will be expected to pay your estimated co-payment, co-insurance and/or deductible at the time of your appointment. Call your insurance provider if you have questions about your plan or coverage.

PreAuthorization

This exam may require prior authorization from your insurance provider before we can perform the study. Speak with your referring physician's office and/or insurance company to understand your coverage and reduce possible delays.

Questions?

Call **800-758-5545**