

CTCA PATIENT INFORMATION

Appointment date: _____

Appointment time: _____

Please arrive 1 hour before this time.

What is a CT Scan of the Coronary Arteries (CTCA)?

The blood vessels that supply blood to the heart are the coronary arteries (CA).

Previously, the only accurate way of assessing these was by a conventional coronary angiogram. This is an invasive test, which requires hospital admission and contrast injection through a large needle in an artery in your groin.

Today, the coronary arteries for most people can now be assessed using ultra- fast computed tomography (CT) scanners. The result -a CTCA- is a less invasive test that involves injecting contrast through an arm vein. It is quicker, has less potential complications and has been shown to be as accurate as a conventional coronary angiogram.

What are the Risks?

As with any medical procedure, there are some small risks associated with the scan:

- **Radiation:** X-rays are used during the scan. We are proud to use the Siemens Definition FLASH -**the lowest dose CT scanner available in the world**. Typical dose around **0.5mSv** – 2mSv depending on patient size and technique. At the lower dose, this amount of radiation is about half the amount of background radiation that you receive in a year from natural sources, such as cosmic rays. This dose is **5 - 20 times LESS** than the dose from some other CT scanners.
- **Contrast Reaction:** Very rarely people experience an allergic reaction to the contrast (dye). This usually manifests as an itchy rash, which settles down by itself. Asthmatic patients may experience worsening of their asthma shortly after the injection. Patients with kidney failure require cautious contrast injection as contrast can (usually temporarily) worsen kidney function. There is a 1 in 250 000 chance of a life threatening (anaphylactic) reaction.
- **Contrast leakage:** Very rarely the contrast goes into the tissues under the skin in your arm rather than into the vein. This can cause bruising, swelling and mild discomfort. This usually resolves by itself. We will perform a test injection using saline to help prevent this from happening. In addition, a member of staff will be with you to watch the injection.

TEST PREPARATION- PLEASE FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS IN BOX ON OTHER SIDE OF THIS PAGE

What to Expect:

- You will change into a gown and have your blood pressure and heart rate monitored. You will be assessed by a radiologist or cardiologist. You may require additional medication
- You will have a cannula (plastic needle) inserted in the vein near your elbow and ECG leads placed on your chest.
- You will be given GTN (Nitrolingual spray) under the tongue just before the scan to relax your coronary arteries, helping us to obtain the best images possible. This may give you a mild headache.
- You may notice a warm sensation and a metallic taste during the contrast injection. This is normal.
- For some scans, you need to hold your breath for up to 15 seconds and to lie flat for about 5-10 minutes.
- Although the scan time is fast- ¼ second, the process is more time consuming. Allow 2 hours.
- Allow for post procedure care and monitoring for a short period of time after the completion of the examination. The effects of beta-blockers should wear off after half a day, but please consider organising someone else to provide transport home, especially if you live far away.

Results

Your referrer will be notified directly of any urgent/unexpected findings on the day of examination. Routinely, test results will take 2-3 days.

If you have any questions about the test, please discuss this with your referring doctor. Also, there are radiographers and radiologists on hand at Castlereagh Imaging who will be able to address any of your concerns.

CONSENT: Please sign below if you are happy to proceed with the scan and bring this form with you:

I _____ understand the above and give my consent to undergo CT scanning including assessment of the Coronary Arteries (CTCA).

Signature: _____ Date _____

Witness _____

GP REFERRAL FOR CT CHEST +/- CORONARY ANGIOGRAM (CTCA)

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|--|
| PATIENT: |
| DOB: |
| TEL: |
| BOOKINGS PHONE: 02 8844 1750 |
| PLEASE FAX THIS REFERRAL TO: 02 9687 2097 |

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| DR | |
| TEL: | FAX: |
| PROVIDER NO: | |
| Signature: | Date: |

A bulk billed CTCA can only be referred by a specialist for patients meeting specific conditions. There is **no bulk bill rebate for GP referred CTCA**.
 If a referrer is **NOT** a specialist and the patient has atypical chest pain/ SOB and a CT angiogram of the chest is being considered (to exclude aortic dissection/aneurysm/ulcer/embolism etc), then as part of our "Westmead protocol", an additional CTCA could be performed. This CTCA is a separate study and is not an MBS item . In this case, there is a private fee (i.e. out of pocket expense) for this of \$ 190.

Please indicate "Westmead protocol" is requested

Other ULTRA LOW DOSE FLASH APPLICATIONS:

- "TRIPLE RULE OUT"
 CT Pulmonary angiogram CT Renal angiogram CT Aortogram(specify thoracic/aortic)

Relevant medical history:

(Please attach any cardiac operation/angiogram reports)

- Previous coronary bypass grafts /stents
 Previous MI/history of CAD
 Previous stroke/other vascular disease

Potential limiting factors:

- Irregular rhythm, Heart block, severe obesity
 Beta-blocker intolerant asthma
 Renal impairment (**need recent creatinine or eGFR attached**)
 Iodine Contrast or other allergy
 Pregnancy

Other relevant medical history:

- Diabetes Hyperlipidaemia
 Hypertension Family history of Heart Disease
 Smoker

Brief History:

Medications:

TEST PREPARATION- note referrers and patients -Not required for Carto-merge/PVS

1. PRE-MEDICATION REGIMEN-

- **Metoprolol 50 mg night before and 50mg 6am morning of CTCA prescribed by referrer**
OR
- **Chronic beta blocker / calcium channel therapy to <HR 65**

2. Other preparation- (patient to tick when completed)

Take normal morning medications except metformin
 Fast for 4 hours if possible prior to CTCA.
 No caffeine/coffee/tea/energy drinks for 24 hours prior to CTCA
 No Cialis, Viagra, Levitra, or similar for 36 hours prior to CTCA
 If known renal failure, recent blood test performed and attached



CASTLEREAGH IMAGING 20-22 Mons Road, Westmead NSW Phone - 02 8844 1750

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|---------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Radiologists | Dr John O'Rourke Dr Julian Adler Dr John Fraser | Cardiologists | Dr Clara Chow Dr Aravinda Thiagalingam |
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