

What is a CT Coronary Angiogram?

A CT Coronary Angiogram is performed to look at the coronary arteries of the heart. The coronary arteries arise from the aorta and supply the heart itself with blood. To demonstrate the arteries, we need to give an injection of X-ray contrast into a vein in your arm, via a small plastic tube (cannula) to highlight the blood vessels.

Is there any preparation?

Please **refrain** from eating or drinking anything containing **caffeine** (e.g. coffee, tea, fizzy drinks, chocolate etc.) on the **day before** and the **day of** your appointment. Otherwise you may eat and drink as normal; however, since you will be given an injection of contrast medium it would be preferable that you do not have a large meal for 2 hours prior to your appointment time. You will be asked several questions prior to the contrast injection.

Please bring a list of all the medications you currently take with you or your repeat prescription list – **failure to do so may result in your appointment being postponed.**

Please read if there is any possibility of you being pregnant. Your procedure should be carried out within the first 10 days after your period starts. If this appointment falls outside the first 10 days, please contact our office on 01603 286081 to re-arrange your appointment. However, if you have an IUCD (coil) fitted, or have been on the contraceptive pill for three months you can ignore this advice.

You will be asked to arrive 30 minutes prior to your appointment time.

What happens when you arrive for your scan?

We will check your pulse and blood pressure.

We will ask you a number of questions prior to taking you into the scan room.

We may insert a small plastic tube (cannula) into a vein in your arm at this point.

What happens during the scan?

During the scan you will need to lie on the couch of the CT scanner. We will then ask you to put your arms above your head and place some heart tracing (ECG) leads on your chest so that we can monitor your heart rate during the scan.

If you require an intravenous cannula and one has not already been inserted before you came into the scan room, we will now insert a cannula into an arm vein.

The image quality of the scan is greatly improved if your heart rate is below 70 beats per minute. In order to achieve this it may be necessary to give you a medication called a beta-blocker. This will be a drug called Metoprolol. If we need to give you this we will inject it when you are in the CT scanner via the intravenous cannula.

Information for Patients having a CT Coronary Angiogram:

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Approved by: PIF

Date approved: 18/03/2020

Reviewed: 19/07/2023

Next review due: 19/07/2026

Available via Trust Docs

Version: 6

Trust Docs ID: 9469

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We may also give you a medication called GTN which dilates your coronary arteries and makes them easier to see and assess. This is given as a spray underneath your tongue.

Every effort will be made to make you as comfortable as possible. You will need to hold your breath for about 10 seconds as each scan is taken, this will be explained clearly at the time.

The cannula in your arm will be connected to a contrast injector which will automatically deliver the contrast media when required. The contrast will be administered in 2 or 3 separate injections. The injection will make you feel warm all over and may give you a funny taste in your mouth; this is quite normal and will only last for about 30 seconds.

How long will it take?

You should plan to be in the department for 1 to 1.5 hours. If we need to give you Metoprolol we will ask you to stay in the department for a further 30 minutes after the scan so that we can monitor you for any adverse effects.

Driving after the examination

If you have received a Metoprolol, the medication to slow your heart, you should not drive or operate any other machinery for 4 hours after the injection.

We cannot know in advance whether or not it will be necessary to give you this medication so you should arrange for somebody to take you home from the hospital.

How do I get the results?

The Radiologist will study your CT scan and report the findings to your consultant. Your consultant will then contact you or arrange a clinic appointment where you will get the results of the scan.

Any Questions?

If you have any further questions or would like to know more about this procedure, please telephone the CT department or appointments office between 9am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Access to Radiology

How to find us:	To access Radiology for your appointment, please follow sign to the Urgent Care Centre/Minors (Emergency Department) in front of Carpark G. On entering, turn immediately left and follow signs to the CT/MR Reception. Please note the change in location, which is likely to be different from your previous visits to Radiology. You can find more information at: www.nnuh.nhs.uk
Hospital transport:	To enquire about hospital transport telephone 0333 240 4100
Contact details:	Telephone: 01603 286081 (9am-5pm Monday to Friday) Email: nnu-tr.ct@nhs.net Website: www.nnuh.nhs.uk