



*Better
Together*

Patient information

Coronary Computerised Tomography (CT)
Calcium Score and CT Coronary
Angiography

Cardiology Directorate

Royal Liverpool Hospital and Broadgreen Hospital

PIF 1842 V2

Your doctor has advised you to have a Coronary CT Calcium Score.

You may also have a CT Coronary Angiogram if necessary depending on the result of the Coronary CT Calcium Score.

Sometimes your doctor will advise that you have a CT Coronary Angiogram without first doing a Coronary CT Calcium Score.

What is a Coronary CT Calcium Score?

Your doctor is unsure what the cause of your chest pain is however there is a small chance that you may have coronary heart disease, this is a narrowing of the coronary arteries which supply the heart muscle with blood and oxygen

The Coronary CT Calcium Score is a CT scan that measures the amount of calcified or hardened plaques in the coronary arteries, the result is in the form of a number.

The CT scanner is very like an ordinary X-ray machine and you will be asked to lie flat for your scan. The main difference is that on the CT machine you will be passed through a wide ring, a bit like a giant Polo mint. The majority of patients have no difficulty with this.

What are the benefits of having a Coronary CT Calcium Score?

The CT calcium score takes approximately five minutes to perform and interpret.

The aim of the Coronary CT Calcium Score is to assess further the likelihood that you have coronary heart disease.

A low score is useful because it indicates that you are unlikely to have coronary heart disease.

A higher score does not mean that you do have coronary heart disease but you may go on to have a CT Coronary Angiogram or in some cases, if the doctor thinks it is more appropriate, you will have an invasive coronary angiogram

What is a CT Coronary Angiogram?

A CT Coronary Angiogram is used to measure the blood flow through the coronary arteries.

It involves injecting an iodine-based dye into the bloodstream through a small cannula inserted into a vein in your arm. This highlights the coronary arteries whilst you are in the CT scanner.

Occasionally if your heart rate is a little too fast to get good pictures with the scan you will be given some medicine to slow it down by one of the doctors

It only takes about 20 minutes to perform and can be done straight after your Coronary CT Calcium Score

What are the benefits of having a CT Coronary Angiogram?

The test helps determine whether you have any narrowing in your coronary arteries.

Sometimes it is done if your doctor suspects you may have an abnormality in the structure of your heart.

What are the risks of having a Coronary CT Calcium Score and/or a CT Coronary Angiogram?

Every day we are all exposed to natural radiation such as from the sun. Like any X-ray, CT involves a small extra dose, but every effort is made to keep this as small as possible. However, even this small extra amount may be harmful to an unborn child.

If you think there is a chance that you could be pregnant please contact the CT Department on Tel: 0151 706 2759. Telephone Number: 18001 0151 706 2759

Are there any alternative tests available?

There are various tests available to investigate whether symptoms are caused by coronary heart disease however this is the test that the doctor thinks is most appropriate for you based on your symptoms and risk factors for coronary heart disease. If you do not want to have this test/these tests there may be an alternative but you would need to discuss this with the doctor.

What will happen if I decide not to have the test?

Your doctor will have explained to you why they want you to have the tests performed, if you do not wish to go ahead with it this may delay your diagnosis.

If you are worried about any of these risks, please speak to your Consultant or a member of their team.

What will happen on the day of the test?

The CT Department will send you further information about your scan with your appointment.

You will be required to take off your clothing on the top half of your body but you will be given a gown to wear to keep yourself covered. Once you are on the bed for your scan you will be attached to a heart monitor with three sticky pads on your chest before the test is done, this is to guide the scan according to your heart-beat.

You will not get the results on the day of your test but once the tests have been reported on, you will be informed of the result either by letter or next time you are due to attend clinic.

Going Home

There are no after effects from this examination.

If you have had a CT Coronary Angiogram sometimes the X-ray dye can make you feel a little bit dehydrated. To stop this happening to you please drink extra fluids following your scan, ideally equal to one cup of tea every hour for the next six hours.

You can continue with your day as normal and you can drive if you wish.

Further information

If you have any further questions please contact your consultant on Tel: 0151 706 2000 and ask to be put through to their secretary or contact your cardiac nurse on.....

**British Heart Foundation website
www.bhf.org.uk**

**NHS website
www.nhs.uk**

**NHS 111 Service
For free advice and information on any health matter, 24hrs a day, 7 days a week
Tel: 111**

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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