

CT Cardiac Calcium Scoring

What is Cardiac scoring?

Cardiac Scoring uses a high-speed computed tomography (CT) scanner to obtain cross-sectional images of the arteries that supply blood to the heart. The test allows cardiac radiologists to identify deposits of calcium in the walls of the coronary arteries. These deposits, which are linked to the build-up of plaque or atherosclerosis that causes the blockages in the coronary arteries, are measured and "scored" by comparing the patient's results to others of the same age and gender.

What does my cardiac score tell me?

Subtle early warning signs of heart disease can be detected. Cardiac scoring is the latest diagnostic tool to detect calcified plaque in the coronary arteries. The score, based on age, gender and other risk factors, is a strong indicator of your risk for coronary artery disease. With this information, your doctor can recommend the appropriate treatment, including diet and lifestyle changes, medication and/or further testing.

What can I expect during the test?

During the test, an experienced CT team, with whom you will be in constant visual and verbal contact will attend to you. You will be asked to lie down on a comfortable examination table that will slowly and smoothly pass through the opening of the CT unit. At the same time the scanner will rotate around you, taking highly detailed pictures of your chest. You will be asked to remain still during the test and perhaps to hold your breath for approximately 15 seconds to ensure that the pictures are in sharp focus.

Are there any risks involved with this test?

Radiation with this screening is minimal due to modern technology and the brief duration of the examination itself. Please be sure to tell your CT team if you are pregnant.

IMPORTANT - THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED BEFORE THE SCREENING EXAM CAN BE PERFORMED.

By electing to participate in the CT Screening exam, you acknowledge that this is a preliminary test, the results of which do not in any way constitute a definitive medical diagnosis as to the existence of heart disease. This CT screening exam evaluates for the presence of calcifications in the coronary arteries, which may indicate the presence of plaque. While the CT scan is sensitive, it cannot detect all types of coronary plaque in the heart. It can only detect plaque that has calcified. Your screening results will be sent to you after a few business days. It is your responsibility to contact your physicians for follow-up evaluation of any abnormal results.

I have read and understand this acknowledgement and voluntarily sign this acknowledgement.

Signature _____ Date _____