Title: Is CT Angiography Right for You?

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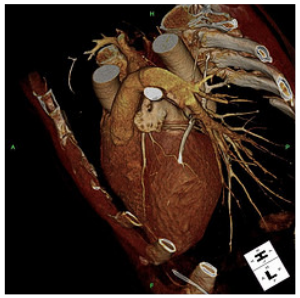
Key words: Computed tomography, angiography, coronary artery disease, CAD, CT angiography

Abstract: Given the high sensitivity and negative predictive value of 64-slice CT angiography, a negative result can be used to effectively rule out CAD in the intermediate risk patient, while a positive result can identify those who need to proceed to traditional angiography.



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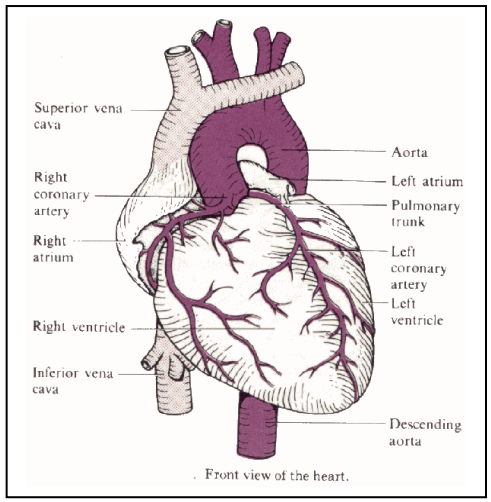
Who Should Not Have

- If your doctor has determined that you are at exceptionally high risk for coronary artery disease
- If your doctor has determined that you are at exceptionally low risk for coronary artery disease
- If you are pregnant
- If you have a severe allergy to contrast dye
- Let your doctor know if you have kidney problems or diabetes as some people with these conditions should not have the test



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What Should I Expect?

- During the study you will lie down on a machine that passes through a donut shaped machine
- The machine takes xrays in circles around your body
- During the scan, contrast dye will be injected into one of your veins
- As the dye flows through the heart it will light up the blood vessels so your doctor can see them

Is CT Angiography Right for You?

What you need to know…

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What Is It?

- A computerized tomographic (CT) scan uses xrays and a computer to create detailed images of your body
- A CT angiogram uses a CT scan combined with dye injected into a vein in your leg to get detailed pictures of your heart vessels
- Your doctor might order a CT angiogram to look for narrowing or obstruction in the small arteries of the heart

Who Should have the Test?

- Those who are at an intermediate risk for coronary artery disease are the best candidates
- Your risk is affected by your age, gender, blood pressure, cholesterol, smoking and other factors
- Talk to your doctor to determine your personal risk

What do I Need to do to Prepare?

- Do not eat or drink anything for four (4) hours before the scan
- Do not wear any jewelry or metal objects as they can interfere with the pictures
- Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing to the test. You may be asked to change into a hospital gown.

What are the Benefits?

- A negative result can eliminate the need for additional testing
- CT angiography is less painful than a traditional angiogram
- Your doctor can gain information about the walls of your vessels, not just how open they are
- CT angiography has a much lower risk of serious complications such as bleeding or infection than a traditional angiogram

What Are the Risks?

- The main risk associated with the procedure is radiation exposure
- The radiation dose with a CT angiogram is no different than a CT of your abdomen
- The radiation dose with a CT angiogram is about twice that of a traditional angiogram
- The radiation dose with a CT angiogram is about the same as your natural exposure over three (3) years
- There is also a small, but serious, risk of allergic reaction to the contrast dye

http://www.medgadget.com/archives/img/CT-Scanner.jpg