

**What is a CT Coronary Angiogram scan?**

A CT (computerised tomography) scan is a special x-ray test that allows us to take detailed images of the body. A CT Coronary Angiogram (or CTCA) takes pictures of your heart and coronary arteries, so we can look for any potential narrowing or blockages in the arteries around your heart, which may be causing your symptoms.

**What are the risks and benefits of this scan?**

The CT Coronary Angiogram allows us to gain very detailed pictures of your heart, which we cannot obtain with other scans. These pictures help us make a diagnosis or assessment and give you the best possible treatment for any abnormalities which may be found. A CTCA is a non-invasive procedure, which reduces the risk of any complications.

**Are there any alternatives to this scan?**

There are some other alternatives to this scan, but your doctor will have requested this specific scan because they feel that this is the best way to gather more information about your condition.

Other tests include MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) and Echocardiogram scans which will give us a good indication as to how your heart is functioning, but only a CTCA will provide sufficient information about the structure of your heart and coronary arteries.

**What if I choose not to have the scan?**

In the event that you do not have the scan for whatever reason, your doctor may not have all the required information to make a diagnosis. This may affect the treatment options or suggestions you have available.

**What do I do before the scan?**

- ♥ Please do not eat for **2 hours** before your appointment
- ♥ Please do not drink tea, coffee, fizzy drinks, alcohol or any other caffeinated drinks for **12 hours** before your scan as this may affect your heart rate
- ♥ Please take **ALL** your medications as normal, apart from Viagra (Sildenafil) – please bring a list of all your medications with you to your appointment
- ♥ Please contact us if you have a history of **Asthma** and use inhalers
- ♥ Please contact us if you have ever had any issues with **Beta-Blockers** (as these may be required during the procedure to slow your heart rate)
- ♥ If you are **pregnant** or think you might be, please contact us immediately.

**How do I get to the department?**

**PLEASE REMEMBER – this test takes place at KINGSTON HOSPITAL**

You can find details on how to get to the hospital here: [Getting to Kingston Hospital](#)

- ♥ You are advised to travel to the hospital by public transport or with someone else if possible. Do **NOT** drive to the hospital as you may be given Beta-Blockers during the scan which means you cannot drive afterwards for a while
- ♥ If you are coming by car with someone, please use the entrance to the hospital located on Galsworthy Road.
- ♥ Coming by Public Transport:
  - Train – the closest National Rail station is Norbiton (located a 5-minute walk away), which is served by South Western Railway
  - Bus – London's TFL services serve the area with the following Bus Routes serving the hospital:

<b>K2 &amp; K4</b>	Both terminate at Kingston Hospital's forecourt
<b>213, 57, K3</b>	Serving stops on Galsworthy Road close to the entrance
<b>K5 &amp; 85</b>	Serving Coombe Rd and Kingston Hill respectively
- ♥ Once you arrive at the hospital, please enter using the **Main Outpatients entrance** (located between Sir William Rous unit and A&E)
- ♥ Please do not enter the hospital too early to ensure we can maintain social distancing. If you arrive at the hospital early, please wait in your car or outside until 5-10 minutes before your appointment time
- ♥ Upon entering, the Radiology Department is located at the other end of the waiting area. Please check in at the Radiology Desk and take a seat on the **BLUE** chairs

**What happens during the scan?**

- ♥ The radiology assistant may ask you to change into a hospital gown. You will be asked to remove any jewellery including watches and body piercings from the area of the scan
- ♥ You will then be called into the scanning room, where the radiographer will introduce themselves and explain the procedure to you. They may ask you some questions to obtain a brief clinical history, including those on the questionnaire.



- ♥ Once on the scanning bed, we will connect ECG leads to your chest, and insert a cannula into a vein in your arm to allow us to inject the contrast (x-ray) dye which lets us see your heart and arteries clearly.
- ♥ If you have a high heart rate, we may need to give you some beta-blockers to slow this down before your scan. This will be short acting and you shouldn't feel any different.
- ♥ In order to see your coronary arteries more clearly, we may also give some medication called GTN spray which dilates your coronary arteries. This is a simple spray given under your tongue.
- ♥ During the scan, we may ask you to hold your breath for a few seconds in order to help us obtain clearer pictures. We will discuss this with you beforehand so you know what to do.
- ♥ The scan will normally take between 20-30 minutes, but you may be with us for up to an hour if we have given you any medication during your test.

**What happens after the scan?**

- ♥ If you have been given any medication to slow your heart rate, you may feel a little dizzy or light-headed for up to a few hours after the scan. You may also develop a slight headache if you have been given GTN spray.
- ♥ Once the doctor, nurse or radiographer has rechecked your blood pressure and are satisfied with your condition, you will be able to go home.
- ♥ The results of your scan will be sent back to your consultant, and they will contact you either by email or letter, or they may arrange an appointment to discuss the results in person.
- ♥ If you have not heard regarding the results at least 10 working days following your scan, please get in touch with us.

Please ensure you have completed the attached questionnaire before your appointment, and answer every question to the best of your ability. This will help us keep you safe during your scan.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do get in touch,

**The Administration Team**

**heartsure** Cardiology Clinic & Diagnostics Service