



A guide to...

CT Cardiac Angiogram

Patient information

How to contact us

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If you need this leaflet in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01923 217 187** or email westherts.pals@nhs.net.



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This is general information about a CT cardiac angiogram, it does not replace the need for personal advice from a healthcare professional. Please ask us if you have any questions.

Contact us

Watford Cardiac Scanner Telephone: **01923 436 549**

What is a CT Cardiac scan?

A CT (computerised tomography) scan is a special X-ray test that allows us to take detailed images of the body. A cardiac CT scan takes pictures of the heart and blood vessels in the body.

How is a Cardiac CT scan carried out?

Our radiographer will ask you to lie on a special bed that will move through the scanner. We will place electrodes (sticky pads connected to leads) on your chest; this allows us to monitor the electrical activity of your heart. The bed moves through the scanner so we can take pictures of your heart and blood vessels.

A special contrast (sometimes called dye) is injected through a vein in your arm so we can see your blood vessels clearly.

During the scan you will be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds. This stops any blurring of the images. The scan takes around 15 minutes but you will be asked to stay with us for up to an hour because of the contrast we give you.

Is there any risk from the radiation?

The amount of radiation used for the scan is kept to a minimum. We believe the benefits of the scan far outweigh the risk to your health.

Preparation

- No food for two hours before your scan time
- No fluids for one hour before your scan
- No caffeine for 24 hours before your scan
- No smoking for 24 hours before your scan
- Take all medications normally
- Please inform us if you have any allergies or you are diabetic
- Please bring a list of your medications with you.

Further information

Further information can be found on the following website www.rcr.ac.uk/patients.