

## Test

## Description/Limitations

## Instructions

### CT Coronary Angiogram

A coronary computed tomography angiogram (CTA) is a heart-imaging test that helps to determine whether fatty deposits or calcium deposits have built up in the coronary arteries, the arteries that supply blood flow to the heart. Using only an intravenous injection of contrast dye, the test is non-invasive and does not require placing a catheter into an artery or the heart.

This test has some limitation. For example, it is not able to image people with irregular heart rhythms. Also, very obese patients or those with heavily calcified arteries may not benefit from this exam.

- No sugar, caffeine and tobacco 12 hours prior to test.
- No decongestants, Excedrin and antihistamines 12 hours prior to test.
- No food or drink four-hours prior to test.
- Drink at least 24 oz of water the day prior to test.
- Avoid metal on clothing such as snaps or jewelry.
- Medications are reviewed individually.
- Allow 30 minutes to hour for testing. This depends on the patient's heart rate.

Notify the CT Department of Iodine Allergy ASAP.

### CTA Neck/Head

A CTA angiogram of the head and or neck is a non-invasive study only requiring the placement of an IV into the arm. Contrast media, iodine, is injected into the IV. The contrast material helps to highlight the vessels of interest. A CTA of the head is helpful in identifying a small aneurysm or arteriovenous malformation inside the brain. CTA of the neck is used to detect narrowing or obstruction in the carotid arteries which bring blood from the heart to the brain. When a stent has been placed to restore blood flow in a diseased artery, CTA will show whether it is serving its purpose.

- No food or drink four hours prior to test.
- Drink at least 24 oz of water the day prior to test.
- Avoid wearing earrings, necklaces or any metal on your chest/neck and head area. If you wear dentures you will be asked to remove them prior to starting the test.
- Allow 30 minutes for the test. Actual scan only takes about 5-10 minutes.
- Bring a current list of medications.

Notify the CT Department of Iodine Allergy ASAP.

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### CTA Chest PE

A CTA angiogram of the chest is a non-invasive study only requiring the placement of an IV into the arm. Contrast media, iodine, is injected into the IV. The contrast material will help to highlight the aorta and major vessels in the chest. This exam helps identify aortic dissections, thoracic aneurysms and or pulmonary embolisms. Dissection means that the layers of the artery wall peel away from each other — like the layers of an onion. Aneurysms are diseased areas of a weakened blood vessel wall that bulges out — like a bulge in a tire. For a PE exam, the pulmonary arteries are examined to rule out pulmonary embolism (blood clot in the lungs), a serious but treatable condition. Symptoms are usually shortness of breath and or chest pain.

- No food or drink four hours prior to test.
- Drink at least 24 oz of water the day prior to test.
- Avoid wearing any shirts/blouse with metal on it.
- Avoid wearing any necklaces.
- Bring a current list of medications.

Notify the CT Department of Iodine Allergy ASAP.

### CTA Abdomen & Pelvis

A CTA angiogram of the abdomen/pelvis is a non-invasive study only requiring the placement of an IV into the arm. Contrast media, iodine, is injected into the IV. The contrast material will help to highlight abdominal aorta, renal arteries, iliac arteries and other major vessels of the abdomen and pelvis. Aneurysms, dissections and or stenosis of arteries are identified with this exam. Placement of grafts are visualized and evaluated for any endo-leaks. The CTA helps to visualize blood flow in the renal arteries (those supplying to the kidneys) in patients with high blood pressure and those suspected of having kidney disorders. Narrowing (stenosis) of a renal artery is a cause of high blood pressure (hypertension) in some patients and can be corrected. Dissection means that the layers of the artery wall peel away from each other — like the layers of an onion. Aneurysms are diseased areas of a weakened blood vessel wall that bulges out — like a bulge in a tire.

- No food or drink four hours prior to test.
- Drink at least 24 oz of water the day prior to test.
- Avoid wearing any metal in the abdomen/pelvis area.
- Bring a current list of medications.

Notify the CT Department of Iodine Allergy ASAP.

## Test

## Description/Limitations

## Instructions

**CTA Abdomen  
Pelvis with  
Run-off**

CTA angiogram with run-off is a non-invasive study of the abdomen, pelvis, and bilateral legs. An IV will be placed into the arm. Contrast media, iodine, is injected into the IV. This contrast material will help to highlight all the vessels of the abdomen/pelvis and both legs. It will also detect atherosclerotic disease that has narrowed the arteries of the legs. It will also detect thrombosis (clots) in veins, for example large veins in the pelvis and legs. Such clots can travel to the lungs and result in pulmonary embolism.

- No food or drink four hours prior to test.
- Drink at least 24 oz of water the day prior to test.
- Avoid wearing any shirts/blouse with metal on it.
- Avoid wearing any metal in the abdomen/pelvis area. Patient may need to change into a gown for this exam.
- Bring a current list of medications.

Notify the CT Department of Iodine Allergy ASAP.

If the patient is allergic to iodine, please notify the CT department prior to the date of the exam. The patient will need to be premedicated before receiving the injection of iodine to prevent a reaction from occurring.