



آغا خان یونیورسٹی ہسپتال، کراچی  
**The Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi.**

**Radiology Department**

**CARDIAC/CORONARY COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY ANGIOGRAM**

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION**

**What is Cardiac/Coronary Computed Tomography Angiogram (CTA)?**

A Cardiac CTA is a procedure used to detect and determine the severity of coronary artery disease (CAD) that supply blood to the heart. Its exclusive feature is that this is a noninvasive procedure in comparison with traditional coronary angiograms. It means that no catheterization is needed in CTA.

**How Do I prepare for the procedure?**

1. No caffeine for 12 hours prior to the procedure.
2. No smoking for 2 hours prior to the procedure.
3. No solid food for 3 hours prior to the procedure.
4. Patient can drink juice or water during the 2 hours before you leave home for the procedure.
5. Before appointment patient has to come for assessment.
5. Your doctor may give you a medication to take on the day of the test, or may increase the dose of a medication that you are already on. This medication slows your heart rate. We cannot do this procedure if your heart rate is too high, so it is very important to take this medication as directed by your doctor. If you do not take your medication, we may have to reschedule your CTA for a different day. Some patients have heart rates that are already slow enough, and do not need any additional medication, so don't worry if your doctor doesn't mention taking medication before the test.
6. Please arrive at the Radiology Department on time. Arriving late may result in a long wait, or we may have to reschedule your procedure.
7. You may continue to take your usual medications as directed by your doctor.
8. If you are diabetic and taking Metformin, stop your Metformin 24 hrs. Prior to the procedure and again resume your Metformin after 48 hrs.
9. Please bring your doctor's prescription and previous medical / radiology record on the day of procedure.

**What will happen during the procedure?**

Heart rate will be checked by an ECG machine and if found heart rate will be more than 60bpm. then a medication beta blocker will be given to lower the heart rate of patient. When heart rate will reach to the desired level an intravenous cannula will be inserted into the arm. Just before starting the scan a contrast medium will be injected through this intravenous cannula. Patient will feel sensation the body for few moments and will be normalize soon. Images will be taken and the procedure will be completed.

**What will happen after the procedure?**

As soon as the procedure will be completed cannula will be removed from the arm. Patient can resume normal activities after the procedure. Drink plenty of fluid. Results will be ready in approximately 2-3 days. Patient can resume a normal diet after the Cardiac CTA procedure.

**Will it hurt?**

Patient should not experience too much discomfort and will have to tolerate the pain as much as of an injection.

**Note:**

You are requested to please:

- Bring your doctor's prescription and previous medical/radiology record on the day of procedure.
- Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your appointment for registration and other formalities. Late arrival may lead to delay/rescheduling of your examination.
- Patients requiring urgent attention will be given priority. This may result in delay in starting your procedure. Your cooperation is requested.
- **For Women: If there is possibility that you are pregnant, please inform your physician before the procedure, as the procedure may have to be postponed or cancelled.**