CT coronary angiography

Your doctor has referred you for a CT examination. The treating unit will inform you of the time and place of the examination.

Please reserve 2 hours for the examination. The actual examination takes approximately 30 minutes, but in some cases, emergency examinations cause changes to the examination schedule.

Preparation for examination

- Do not eat anything for 2 hours before the examination.
- Drinking liquids (water or juice) up until the examination is recommended. However, do not drink coffee or tea because they increase the heart rate.
- In addition, smoking should be avoided.
- However, any medication prescribed to you by your doctor should be taken according to instructions.

If you are hypersensitive to iodine-bearing contrast medium or you are/suspect you might be pregnant, please inform of this to the treating doctor or radiographer before the procedure.

Examination

Computed tomography scan uses X-rays, and the scan provides information on the coronary arteries and the heart’s structure.

Before the examination, your need for premedication will be assessed. A radiographer will measure your blood pressure and pulse and set up an intravenous line. Coronary artery scans are most successful when the heartbeat is steady and the rate about 60 per minute. If necessary, you will be administered medication to calm the heart rate, either orally as tablets or via the intravenous line immediately before the scan.

You will also receive two doses of nitroglycerin spray orally. Nitroglycerin makes the coronary arteries appear more clearly in the images.

First, the heart is scanned without the contrast medium and then with it. The contrast medium is injected into the circulation via the intravenous line. During the scan, you must lie still and follow the breathing instructions given. The radiographer has a speech, hearing and visual contact to you. The contrast medium causes a temporary feeling of heat and sometimes metallic taste in the mouth. The contrast medium will excrete through the urine.
After the examination

The doctor in charge of your care will inform you of the results of the examination. If you have not already been booked for an appointment or for a phone consultation, please contact the unit treating you in order to obtain the results.

Other things to note

Please take your health insurance card (Kela card) or identity card with you.

A separate fee will be charged for missed examinations which have not been cancelled beforehand.