

Clearwater
Cardiovascular



Consultants

YOUR GUIDE TO CARDIOVASCULAR CT



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What is CT?

CT is known as Computerized Tomography, Computerized Axial Tomography or CAT Scan. CT is a diagnostic imaging procedure that uses a combination of x-rays and computer technology to produce cross sectional images of the body.

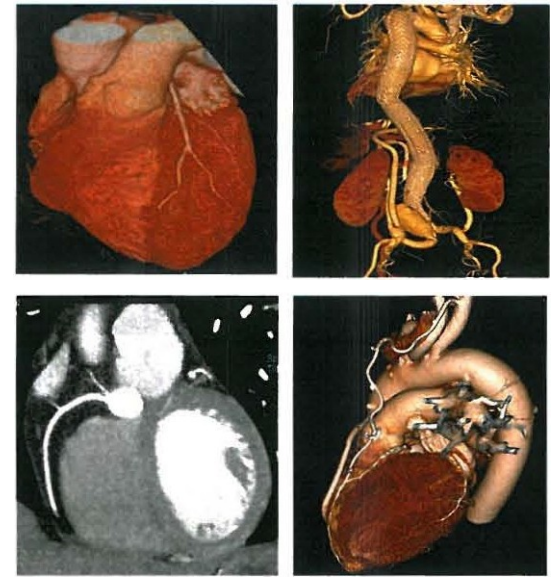
A CT exam is a quick, painless procedure. The scanner will acquire the images in just a few seconds while you are comfortably lying on the patient table. Ask your doctor about total exam duration, since exam times will vary.

Cardiovascular Computed Tomography

Clearwater Cardiovascular Consultants is proud to offer the first dedicated cardiovascular computed tomography (CT) imaging lab in the Tampa Bay area.

This 64-slice CT technology allows for fast and accurate cardiac and vascular imaging. This technique can non-invasively assess for vascular blockage and heart function that was previously only available through the invasive procedure called catheterization or angiography.

Cardiovascular CT is an ideal test for the appropriate candidate. However, there are restrictions that prevent everyone from being a candidate. Your physician will determine if this test is right for you.



Common Cardiac CT Indications

Your doctor may order a cardiac CT scan for the following reasons:

- Chest pain or shortness of breath with other risk factors for heart disease.
- Inconclusive stress test
- Evaluation of bypass grafts and stents
- Assess for congenital cardiac anomalies
- Assess cardiac structure and function
- Preoperative cardiac risk evaluation
- Asymptomatic with multiple cardiac risk factors

Requirements for Cardiac CT

In order for you to have a cardiac CT scan, you:

- Will have a small IV catheter placed in a vein in your arm.
- Must have a regular heart rhythm.
- Must be able to lie still with both arms above shoulders
- Must be able to hold your breath for 10 seconds.
- Must weigh less than 450 lbs.
- Cannot be allergic to IV dye.
- Cannot be pregnant or lactating.
- Cannot have advanced renal insufficiency.

CT Examination

Preparing for the examination:

- We ask that you arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled time of the scan. This allows us to check your heart rate and administer medications to slow it down if necessary.
- Wear clothes without metal zippers, snaps or metallic clips. If you arrive wearing clothing that has metal fasteners, you will be asked to change into a hospital gown. It is best to leave all your neck jewelry at home.
- Allergy to IV contrast dye is rare. The common reactions include hives, itching and redness. Shortness of breath, wheezing and swelling are more severe reactions. If you have a history of dye allergy, you may be given medications the night before the scan and just prior to the scan to lessen the severity of an allergic reaction.
- If you develop these symptoms during or right after the scan, tell the medical personnel immediately. Medications can be given to diminish the allergy symptoms.

During the examination:

- The exam table will slowly move into scanning position within the CT scanner's doughnut-shaped opening.
- You will be asked to remain still and hold your breath during the few seconds the scanner captures the image.

After your exam, all normal activities may be resumed, unless otherwise directed by your doctor.

Contrast Media

Your doctor is interested in seeing specific vascular areas. A contrast media (dye) is used to allow visualization of cardiovascular structures.

You may feel a slight warming sensation when the contrast medium is administered through a small IV.

Consult with your physician prior to your CT exam if you have had an allergic reaction to iodine and shellfish or to IV contrast medium.

Insurer Information

While this new technology offers tremendous insight into cardiovascular disease and treatment options, not all insurers yet have agreed to reimburse for the service.

Our experienced staff will assist you in determining your insurance eligibility and coverage.