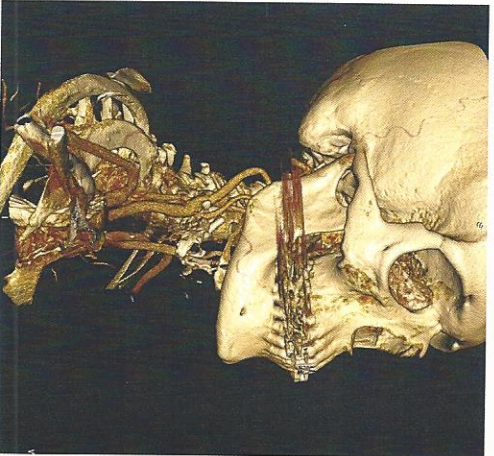
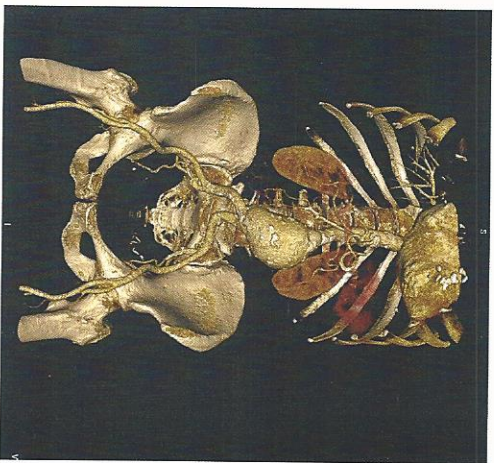


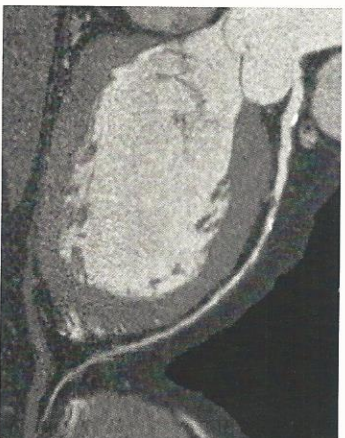
## PERIPHERAL CT ANGIOGRAPHY (CTA)

Peripheral Angiography is a non-invasive test used to visualize main vessels and arteries. Images can be obtained on almost any part of the body. This is helpful in diagnosing aneurysms, blockages or narrowing of blood vessels.



## CORONARY CT ANGIOGRAPHY (CTA)

Coronary CTA is a non-invasive heart-imaging test where high-resolution, 3-dimensional pictures of the heart and vessels are produced to determine if either fatty or calcium deposits have built up in the coronary arteries restricting blood flow. Coronary CTA is most useful to determine whether symptoms of chest pain may be caused by a coronary blockage. Also patients with diabetes, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, smokers and those who have a family history of cardiac events may be good candidates for this scan.



## WHAT HAPPENS DURING YOUR SCAN?

You may be asked to undress and wear a paper gown. You will lie on your back on the scanner table with your arms above your head, 3 electrodes may be placed on your chest to monitor your heart rate and rhythm. While images are being obtained you will be asked to hold your breath, remain still and the table will move you through the scanner.

### CTA CORONARY

A calcium score will be completed initially. If the calcium score is too high the CTA Coronary will not be completed. You will be given a spray of Nitroglycerin, contrast dye will be injected and images will be obtained.

You may feel warm and flushed for a few minutes, which is normal. However, if you should feel itchy, short of breath or uncomfortable, please let your technologist know.

Your I.V. will be removed 10-15 minutes after scan.

### CT SCAN WITH CONTRAST

Dye will be injected and your images will be obtained. You may feel warm and flushed for a few minutes, which is normal. However, if you should feel itchy, short of breath or uncomfortable, please let your technologist know.

Your I.V. will be removed 10-15 minutes after scan.

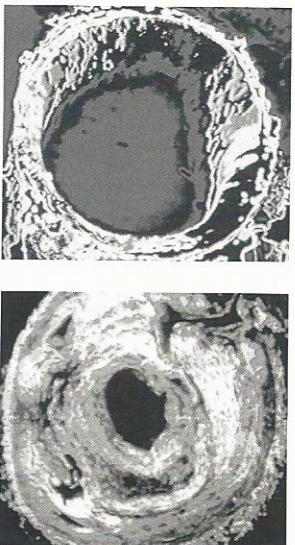


## Coronary Artery Disease, Atherosclerosis and Heart Attacks

When most people think of “heart disease,” they’re really thinking of *coronary artery disease*, or CAD, the clogging of arteries that can lead to a heart attack.

CAD is the end result of a progressive hardening of the arteries, a process in which the arteries become clogged and prevent oxygen-rich blood from reaching the heart.

Over time, deposits of cholesterol and other substances build up along blood vessel walls and become calcified. Blood flow through the vessel slows until a blood clot forms — completely sealing off the passage of blood to the heart. It is at this moment that a heart attack occurs.



CT images of a healthy artery (left), and clogged artery (right).

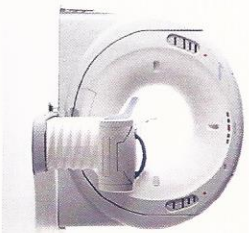
## Coronary Calcium Scoring: Detecting CAD in its Earliest Stages

Calcium scoring is one of the most advanced methods available to detect heart disease in its earliest stages. And there’s no better time than now to prevent heart disease, because statistics<sup>1</sup> like these continue to remind us of its tragic effects:

- Every 29 seconds an American suffers a heart attack.
- Every minute an American dies from a heart attack.
- 50% of men and 63% of women who die suddenly of heart disease have no previous symptoms.
- About 80% of the people under 65 who died of heart disease did so during their first heart attack.

Calcification in the coronary arteries is the earliest indicator of heart disease. Calcium scoring uses noninvasive, high-speed computed tomography (CT) to scan your heart and detect calcium deposits along the walls of arteries.

The test then produces a “score” that identifies the number and locations of any calcium deposits. Taking into account other factors such as age, family history and cholesterol level, your cardiologist uses the calcium score to measure your risk for heart disease.



## What to Expect During the Calcium Scoring Exam

There are no special preparations for the exam: no fasting, no injections, no ceasing of medications and no need to change clothes. Women will need to remove bras, and jewelry may also need to be removed in some instances.

You’ll be lying comfortably on the exam table for about five minutes, though the scan takes only seconds.

Electrocardiogram (EKG) leads will be placed on your chest to synchronize the scan with your heartbeats.

You will be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds during scanning.

## Testing Results

The results of your exam represent peace of mind, since early detection is the key to prevention. Considering over half of the people who died suddenly of heart disease had no symptoms, what you know today can help you live a healthier tomorrow.

The ideal calcium score is zero. A score of one or higher indicates *some* risk of heart disease, and your cardiologist or family physician can recommend lifestyle changes or drug therapies to help slow progression of the disease.