

The contrast usually causes nothing more than a warm feeling passing around your body but occasionally it can produce a minor temporary reaction such as nausea (feeling sick) or a rash.

There is small risk that the beta blocker will cause the heart rate to go slowly and may cause you to feel sick or dizzy. This feeling is usually short lasting.

Female patients

If you are, or think there is a chance you might be, pregnant then please telephone the department on 01722 336 262 ext 4282 to tell us before your appointment.

After the scan

The ECG electrodes and cannula will be removed and you will be asked to wait within the department for about 10 minutes to make sure that you are feeling all right.

We advise you not to operate machinery or to drive for at least 1 hour. If at all possible please arrange for someone to drive you home.

If after the scan you experience any of the following signs or symptoms, please go to your nearest A&E Department:

- feeling wheezy and short of breath
- tightness or pains in your chest
- skin itch or itchy spots
- dizziness or fever.

Results

The images are looked at carefully reviewed by a Consultant Radiologist and a Cardiologist. The doctor who referred you will receive the results within 2 weeks of the scan.

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If you need this information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care Team on 0800 374 208 email: customer.care@salisbury.nhs.uk.

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

If you are unhappy with the advice you have been given by your GP, consultant, or another healthcare professional, you may ask for a second (or further) opinion.

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Cardiac CT Imaging



**Cardiology
Department
01722 336262
ext 2469 or 2443**

Your cardiologist has asked for a CT scan of your heart to help with the diagnosis and management of your condition. This leaflet will explain what a CT scan is and how it is done.

Questions?

Before your scan a member of staff will explain what is going to happen and answer any questions. If you wish to talk about your scan before the day of your appointment then please call the Cardiology Department on 01722 336 262 ext 2469 or 2443.

What is a CT scan?

This is a scan which can see the structure of your heart and the arteries that supply blood to your heart by using X-rays to take pictures of your heart. These X-rays are then reconstructed by a computer into 3D images.

You can expect to be in the department between 1 and 2 hours.

Preparation for your scan

You will be sent an appointment letter by post clearly stating the time that you need to arrive for your scan. Please make sure that you arrive on time as arriving late may mean we have to cancel your appointment.

Should I take my regular medication?

Yes, please continue taking your regular prescribed medication. It is useful to

bring a list of the tablets you take on the day of the scan.

Diabetic patients may be asked to stop metformin or glucophage for 48 hours before the scan.

Can I eat and drink before the scan?

Yes you can – in fact we advise you to drink lots of water before and after the scan.

However, **please avoid smoking, coffee, tea and chocolate on the day of your scan** as these increase your heart rate. This can sometimes result in a poor quality scan.

Will I be given any medication during the scan?

In order to get a good quality scan, your heart rate needs to be slow. If your heart rate is too fast then the doctor may need to give you a beta blocker (either as a tablet or an injection) in order to slow it down gently. People generally cope well with beta blockers and their effect on your heart rate only lasts for about 20 minutes.

Does the doctor need to know any other information about me before giving me the drug?

It is important to tell staff if you have any allergies, especially if you have taken beta blockers before and have had

problems with them. You should also mention if you suffer from asthma.

What will happen during the scan?

When you arrive a small cannula (plastic tube) will be placed in a vein in your arm. During your scan, a member of staff will ask you to lie on your back on the scanning table with your arms above your head. Some ECG stickers will be put onto your chest so we can monitor your heart rate and rhythm during the scan. The table will move and you will be asked to hold your breath as this enables us to obtain a clear picture. Any movement during the scan may cause the images to look blurred. If this happens there is a small chance that a second scan will be done to ensure we have good quality images.

What are the risks?

The CT scan involves a small amount of radiation. This is, however, more than a standard X-ray and the amount of radiation is roughly the same as the amount of natural radiation you receive from the environment over 3 years.

It will be necessary for you to have an injection of a contrast fluid (this contains iodine but is not radioactive) into your vein. The liquid is colourless as injected but appears as bright white on the CT images which helps to highlight blood vessels and other anatomical details.