

Patient information factsheet

CT coronary angiogram aftercare advice

We have given you this factsheet because you have had a CT coronary angiogram today (a type of scan that uses x-rays and computer software to produce detailed pictures of the heart and the heart's blood vessels). It explains what to expect after your scan. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us using the details at the end of this factsheet.

Please keep this factsheet to hand so you can refer to it over the next few days.

After your scan

You can return to your usual daily activities and eat and drink as normal after your scan. However, we recommend that you drink plenty of fluids for the first two to three days to help flush the x-ray contrast out of your system.

Your results

The images that we took of your heart during the scan will be reviewed by a consultant radiologist (a doctor specialising in diagnosing conditions using medical images). We will then send your results to the doctor who referred you for this scan and they will discuss the results of the scan with you at your follow-up outpatient appointment.

Possible side effects

A CT coronary angiogram is a very safe scan and most people do not experience any side effects. However, if we gave you one or more of the following medicines during your scan, you may experience some of the side effects listed below for up to 48 hours afterwards.

Beta blockers (Metoprolol or Betaloc)

This is a medicine that is used to slow down your heart rate.

Side effects of beta blockers include:

- tiredness
- dizziness
- feeling lightheaded

These can be signs of a slow heart rate. If you experience any of these side effects, do not:

- drive any type of motor vehicle or ride any type of bicycle
- operate any type of electrical or mechanical equipment/machinery

Glyceryl trinitrate (GTN) tablets

This is a medicine that is used to relax and widen the blood vessels in your heart, making it easier for us to see if there are any blockages.

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Side effects of GTN tablets include:

- a mild headache (you can take a pain relief medication such as paracetamol to help with this – always follow the instructions on the packet)
- dizziness (this can be reduced by sitting or lying down)

X-ray contrast

This is a fluid that when injected into the bloodstream, allows us to clearly see the blood vessels around your heart. A delayed allergic reaction to the x-ray contrast is a possible, but very rare, side effect.

Call NHS **111** or speak to a pharmacist if:

- you notice a rash appear anywhere on your body over the next few days and/or
- your whole body starts to feel itchy.

Visit your nearest emergency department or call **999** immediately if:

- you develop shortness of breath and/or
- your throat and/or face start to swell.

If you do experience any of the side effects in this factsheet, please let us know so we can make a note of this on your radiology information system record.

Contact us

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact us.

Radiology department

Telephone: **023 8120 4833** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.30pm)

Outside of these hours, contact your general practitioner (GP) or NHS **111** for advice.

Useful links

www.uhs.nhs.uk/Media/UHS-website-2019/Patientinformation/Scansandx-rays/CT-coronary-angiogram-3338-PIL.pdf

www.nhs.uk/conditions/ct-scan

www.bhf.org.uk/informationsupport/heart-matters-magazine/medical/tests/ct-scans-of-the-heart

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