



Scheduling a Coronary CTA

The patient's physician may order a Coronary CTA at San Diego Imaging by calling our Scheduling department for our Kearny Mesa office at (858) 634-5900 or for our Oceanside office at (760) 630-0014.

The orders may also be faxed to our Kearny Mesa office at (858) 634-5990 or to our Oceanside office at (760) 630-0015.

Once the order is received, the patient will be contacted by our scheduling staff to set up an appointment.



San Diego Imaging Kearny Mesa

7910 Frost Street, Suite 100 | San Diego, CA 92123
Tel 858.634.5900 | Fax 858.634.5990

San Diego Imaging Oceanside

3909 Waring Road, Suites B & C | Oceanside, CA 92056
Tel 760.630.0014 | Fax 760.630.0015

A Patient's Guide to Coronary CTA

Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography



What is Coronary CTA?

Computed Tomography (CT) allows for the visualization of the internal structures of the body. This is instrumental in assisting physicians in diagnosing disease, viewing internal abnormalities and assessing injuries.

The equipment and professional expertise available at our Kearny Mesa and Oceanside offices provide patients with the latest scanning technology of the heart and coronary arteries available: Coronary CT Angiography. With a single rotation of the CT scanner in just seconds, this new system captures 64 extremely thin images which provide a comprehensive view of the heart and coronary arteries.

The images are timed to the patient's heartbeat and therefore are not blurred. Using advanced technology, the information obtained is then reconstructed into 3-D images of the heart and the coronary arteries that show if there are any narrowed areas in the blood vessels and signs of early disease in the vessel walls.

Who should consider Coronary CTA?

Coronary artery disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and is typically caused by blockages in the coronary arteries that supply blood to the heart. Most people, as they age, have one or more risk factors for coronary artery disease. The earlier that coronary artery disease is detected, the better the chance that life-threatening problems may be averted through appropriate treatment.

The first step in determining if a patient should consider Coronary CTA is to consult with their primary care physician to determine if Coronary CTA is an appropriate diagnostic tool. Patients with no typical symptoms (no chest pain, shortness of breath, or fatigue during physical activity) but with a family history of coronary artery disease or other risk factors (high cholesterol) should consider Coronary CTA.

Other considerations for undergoing Coronary CTA, such as inconclusive results from a treadmill test or other cardiac testing, unusual symptoms for coronary artery disease, evaluation for the presence of abnormalities of the heart and vessels, or previous coronary procedures (bypass grafts, stents, angioplasty) should also be discussed with the patient's primary care physician.

How is Coronary CTA performed?

The patient is asked to complete a series of questions which will allow our professional staff to tailor the examination to the specific needs of the patient.

The patient's heart rate is assessed and an intravenous (IV) line is placed in the patient's arm for the administration of contrast material that will aid in evaluation of the heart and blood vessels. In some patients, medication may be given to slow the patient's heart rate in order to obtain optimal images.

The patient lies on their back on the scanning table and the table moves inside the CT scanner. The patient is asked to hold their breath and the images are obtained in a matter of seconds.

