

Computed tomography (CT) cardiac angiogram

Information for patients

This sheet aims to provide you with information about your computed tomography (CT) cardiac angiogram. If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to the team caring for you.

Confirming your identity

Before you have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you your name and date of birth and check your ID band. If you do not have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm your address. If we do not ask these questions, then please ask us to check. Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

What is a computed tomography (CT) cardiac angiogram?

A CT cardiac angiogram is a CT scan used to look for heart disease, without the need for an invasive procedure. The X-ray images from your scan are used to assess the structure and vessels around your heart.

Preparation for your CT cardiac angiogram

For your CT cardiac angiogram, the ideal heart rate is around 60 beats per minute.

The medical professional who has requested the CT scan should assess if you need to be prescribed beta-blocker medication (for example, metoprolol) or other rate-controlling medications (for example, diltiazem or ivabradine) to slow down your heart rate before your CT scan. If this has not happened, please contact your Cardiology team.

If you already take medication to slow down your heart rate, please ask the Cardiology team if you need to increase your dose on the morning of your scan.

If your heart rate is not ideal, we may not be able to complete your CT scan.

On the day of your scan

- Please avoid tea, coffee or sugary soft drinks before the scan, as they can increase your heart rate.
- Please drink plenty of water before and after your scan.
- Take all medications as normal (unless told otherwise).
- If you have asthma, bring any inhalers you use with you.
- Please do not wear nail varnish or body lotion.
- Be prepared to be in the department for up to 2 hours.
- Please do not drive to the hospital, you may be given medications that will mean you cannot drive home after your scan. We advise that you travel to and from the appointment with a friend or family member.
- We do not have any childcare facilities on our hospital sites. Please do not bring children with you unless there is someone to look after them.
- Our department is small so relatives might not be able to wait in the department while you have your scan.

During the scan

We will ask you to get changed into a hospital gown then we will take some basic observations (including heart rate and blood pressure), complete a questionnaire and insert a cannula (small flexible plastic tube) into a vein.

Once on the scanner we will attach electrocardiogram (ECG) leads to your chest with stickers to monitor your heart rate.

We may give you additional beta-blocker medication and/or a medication called GTN (glyceryl trinitrate), to help dilate (make bigger) the arteries of your heart for better pictures.

There will be breathing instructions given throughout the scan. Please follow these as best as you can. This is important to get good quality images.

We will give you contrast (dye) through your cannula which allows assessment of the vessels and structure of your heart.

This contrast can give you a warm sensation all over, but this passes very quickly. The scan process lasts about 30 minutes.

After your CT scan

We ask patients to wait for up to 20 minutes after their scan.

We will do more observations before we remove your cannula.

You can eat and drink as normal.

Do not drive or manage heavy machinery that day.

How do you get your results?

Your CT scans are studied by specialist cardiologists and radiologists. We cannot give results on the day. The results will be sent to your referring clinician and they will contact you with your results.

Please do not contact the CT department for results as we cannot give them to you. Check your MyChart app or speak directly to your Cardiology team.

Car parking

There is no general car parking at King's College Hospital. There are drop-off and collection zones and spaces for blue badge holders. Car parking at Princess Royal University Hospital is directly off the A21 (Farnborough Common). There is pay and display parking, with spaces for blue badge holders.

Contacting us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the relevant CT department:

King's College Hospital

Tel: 020 3299 3361

Location: CT Suite, 1st Floor, Denmark Wing, King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Princess Royal University Hospital

Tel: 01689 863642

Location: CT Suite, Level 1 South Wing, Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough Common, Orpington BR6 8ND

MyChart

Our MyChart app and website lets you securely access parts of your health record with us, giving you more control over your care. To sign up or for help, call us on 020 3299 4618 or email kings.mychart@nhs.net. Visit www.kch.nhs.uk/mychart to find out more.

Sharing your information

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has partnered with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust through the King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas' hospitals. King's College Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trusts share an electronic patient record system, which means information about your health record can be accessed safely and securely by health and care staff at both Trusts. For more information visit www.kch.nhs.uk.

Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams.

Tel: 020 3299 4618

Email: kings.pals@nhs.net

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Interpreting and Accessible Communication Support on 020 3299 4618 or email kings.access@nhs.net