



Patient Name _____ Procedure Date _____

Ordering Physician _____ Arrival Time _____

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN HAVING A COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CTA)

What is a CTA?

Your physician has recommended you for Computed tomography Angiography (CTA). This procedure uses a computed tomography (CT) scanner to visualize blood flow in the vessels/arteries and new computer software to manipulate the data into 3 dimensional (3D) images. CTA is used to identify weakened sections of arteries or veins and to visualize blood flow. CT Angiography provides your physicians with more precise images of your blood vessels than either MRI or Ultrasound technology.

What to Expect?

- You will be instructed to arrive 30 minutes before your exam. Please plan on a total of 2 hours for the completion of the test. In unusual situations it may require more than 2 hours.
- Upon arrival, you will be escorted to the procedure preparation area/your room. You will be asked to change into a hospital gown. The nurse will then check your vital signs and ask you about your health history.
- When you are brought into the CT room, you will lie comfortably on your back on a padded table that moves through the scanner. Both ends of the scanner are open; you are not enclosed. You will be able to communicate with the technologist at any time through a two-way intercom. The CT scan causes no pain.
- A nurse will start an IV in your arm so that contrast material can be injected during the scan.
- The CT scanner will measure when the contrast material will reach your vessels/arteries.
- You should remain as still as possible to produce the clearest images. You may be asked to hold your breath.
- When the contrast material is injected, you may notice a warm, flushed sensation for a short time.
- Once the contrast material has reached your vessels/arteries, the CT scanner will take thousands of pictures. The scanner will then put the pictures back together to form a three dimensional picture.

Please follow these instructions in preparation for your exam:

What to Avoid Before the Study

- Avoid caffeinated drinks on the day before and the morning of your exam, including coffee, tea, energy drinks or caffeinated sodas.
- Avoid energy or diet pills on the day before and the day of your exam.
- For 4 hours prior to study, you may have clear non-caffeinated liquids but nothing to eat.
- Make sure if you use Viagra, Levitra, Cialis, or Revatio that you do not take them for 72 hours (3 days) before the study.
- If you are diabetic and take any drug with metformin (Glucophage, Glucophage XR, Glucovance, Fortamet, Glumetza, Riomet, Acto plus met, Avandamet) you should not take these medications 48 hours (2 days) before the study.

The Day of the Study

- 4 hours before the study do not eat, drink any caffeinated beverage, or take any type of energy pill. Clear liquids are acceptable.
- Drink two 8 ounce glasses of water prior to arriving for your study.
- Do take all medications according to your normal home schedule except for Metformin. If you are diabetic and take any drug with metformin (Glucophage, Glucophage XR, Glucovance, Fortamet, Glumetza, Riomet, Acto plus met, Avandamet) you should not take these medications 48 hours (2 days) before the study.
- Because you will need to wear a hospital gown for your exam, wear clothing that can be changed easily.
- Leave all jewelry and valuables at home.
- Though we do not anticipate any delays in your exam, please consider bringing a book, magazine or music player to help you pass the time while you are waiting.
- Do notify the staff if you are or may be pregnant.

After the Study

- You will then be given discharge instructions. Your physician will contact you with the results.
- A physician (a radiologist or cardiologist) will evaluate your study and issue a report to your physician usually within 48 hours.
- After the study, you may resume your normal diet. Be sure to drink plenty of fluids after the study to help flush the contrast out of your system.
- Nursing mothers should pump and discard breast milk and wait 24 hours after contrast injection before resuming breastfeeding.

Points to Remember

- Bring your insurance card with you. It is your responsibility to research your insurance coverage. Some insurance companies may not cover this study. If you are paying out of pocket for the study, please be prepared to pay by check, Visa, Mastercard or American Express at time of service.
- Bring any referral form given to you by your physician.
- Bring your prescription, if you have been given one.
- Bring a list of your current medications.
- If you have a coronary artery stent or other implantable medical device and you carry a medical information card about that device, please bring the card with you.
- If you are pregnant, or suspect you may be, please notify your physician prior to scheduling this exam.
- If you are unable to keep this appointment, please contact us immediately at **818-782-5041**.