

JOHNS HOPKINS

MEDICAL IMAGING

Cardiac CTA Exam

A Cardiac CTA exam is a non-invasive way to take images of your heart and its blood vessels. It can be used to determine whether or not you have areas of plaque or narrowing in the blood vessels of the heart, known as the coronary arteries, which can be a cause for chest pain or shortness of breath. This test will help your doctor learn more about your condition and decide the best treatment option.

At Johns Hopkins Medical Imaging, all cardiac images are reviewed by Johns Hopkins radiologists who are subspecialty trained in cardiac imaging.

What Happens During This Exam?

- When you arrive, a nurse will place an IV for the contrast material and check your heart rate. If the heart rate needs to be lowered, medication will be given which can take up to an hour.
- The CT technologist will help you lie in the correct position on the CT table, place EKG leads (electrode wires) on your chest to monitor your heart rate, and administer contrast through the IV to highlight the blood vessels in your heart.
- The CT technologist will move to a connected room with a window and be able to see, hear, and speak with you anytime.
- The scan is painless, and you will be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds at a time for clear images. The exam can be as short as 5 minutes but all scans are customized to each patient so some may experience slightly longer scan times.
- Afterwards you can resume normal activities immediately.



What Does CTA Mean?

- **Cardiac** means related to the heart; the term “coronary” can also be used and refers specifically to the blood vessels of the heart.
- **Computed Tomography (CT)** refers to the equipment which uses a rotating x-ray and contrast material to take images of organs, soft tissue, and blood vessels. Contrast material is used to help highlight blood vessels within organs more clearly.
- **Angiography (A)** is the type of exam which in this case focuses on blood vessels such as arteries and veins.

Available At:

Bethesda

6420 Rockledge Dr., Suite 3100
Bethesda, MD 20817

Green Spring Station

10803 Falls Road, Suite 1100
Lutherville, MD 21093

White Marsh

4924 Campbell Blvd, Suite 105
Nottingham, MD 21236

Schedule by calling 443-997-7237

Find out how we're keeping you safe at hopkinsmedicine.org/imaging/covid



JOHNS HOPKINS
MEDICINE