



CT – Coronary/Cardiac

To schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about your procedure: (319) 398-6050

What is a CT Scan?

A Computed Tomography (CT) scan – sometimes called CAT scan – is a non-invasive, painless medical test that helps providers diagnose and treat medical conditions.

CT imaging uses special X-ray equipment to produce multiple images or pictures of the inside of the body. A computer joins them together in cross-sectional views of the area being studied. The images can then be examined and interpreted from the computer.

CT scans of internal organs, bone, soft tissues and blood vessels provide greater clarity than conventional X-ray exams.

A CT Coronary Angiogram is performed to look at the arteries that supply blood to your heart. It may be performed to diagnose the cause of chest pain or other symptoms. You will receive a special “dye” through a vein in your arm called contrast material which will highlight these structures.

A lab blood test called Serum Creatinine is usually required if you are older than 60, diabetic or have high blood pressure. The blood test can be done any time within 60 days prior to the exam.

A CT Coronary Angiogram usually takes approximately 30 minutes.

Preparation:

Do not eat or drink anything with caffeine for 4 hours prior to the exam. Do not eat for 2 hours prior to your scheduled CT exam. Discontinue male enhancement medication 4 days prior to exam. Your provider may order a beta blocker to lower your heart rate to be taken prior to your exam. If beta blockers are ordered by your provider prior to exam, take as prescribed. Failure to do so may result in the exam being rescheduled. Cardiac leads will be placed on your chest prior to the scan and the heart rate will be used to assist in reducing heart motion during the scan. A nurse will be giving you nitro glycerin during the procedure.

There are no special instructions after your CT scan. You will be able to eat and drink after the scan unless your provider has indicated otherwise.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:

A PHOTO ID TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY

A LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS YOU ARE TAKING

Procedure Results:

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to the provider who ordered your exam. Your provider will discuss the results with you. Results will typically be available for your provider within two business days of the exam. Results will also be sent to your MyChart account.

Parking:

Mercy Hospital:

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10th Street and 8th Avenue SE. Proceed to **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to “Radiology (X-Ray),” also located on **Ground (G)** level.

Plumb Heart Center:

Located on the ground floor at 846 9th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids. This is located across from Mercy Medical Center. Parking located outside of the Plumb Heart Center main entrance along 8th St SE.