

## Aortic CT scanning (TAVI)

A computed tomography (CT) scanner uses X-rays to take cross-sectional images. CT scanning of the coronary arteries can be performed with the newest, fastest scanners capable of recording accurate images of the moving heart.

The PET/CT scanner has a wide opening (70 cm in diameter), so it can generally be used even for claustrophobic patients.

The scanning visit takes about 1 hour including the preliminary steps.

### How to prepare

The scan is done with a contrast agent, so a laboratory test to check kidney function (**plasma creatinine**) usually needs to be completed beforehand. If you know you have kidney failure, please contact the facility referring you to the study.

You can eat normally before the study.

**Avoid smoking for 6 hours** before your appointment (this also applies to other nicotine products).

Pregnant women do not normally have this procedure. If you think you may be pregnant, notify us before you come in for the study.

### Medications

**Metformin medications** used to treat diabetes will be suspended for two days from the scanning date. They are normally resumed after 48 hours or when kidney function is found to be normal.

Such medications include:

- Avandamet
- Competact
- Diformin Retard
- Eucreas
- Glucophage
- Janumet
- Metforem
- Metformin

- Metgol
- Oramet-hexal

You may take your other medications as usual.

## **What to expect at your appointment**

- Every patient is asked to complete an interview form. The scanning procedure will be reviewed with you in advance and a medical technician will help you practice holding your breath for a short time (less than 10 s) as required for the study.
- A monitor will be placed to keep track of your heart rate and an intravenous cannula (drip) will be inserted into your lower arm. The study will be painless except for the small prick to your arm.
- Your heart will be scanned without a contrast agent first, and then with contrast injection. You will need to stay still and follow any instructions you are given for the study to be successful. The radiologic technologist and the physician who is conducting the study will be able to hear you and see you throughout the study.
- The radiographic contrast agent contains iodine and may cause a warm feeling to spread over your body for a moment, and you may also notice a metallic taste in your mouth. This is normal, not an allergic symptom.
- The contrast scanning takes less than 10 seconds.

## **After the study**

You will not need to stay at the hospital for observation after the study. We recommend drinking more water than usual after the study. This is because the contrast agent is excreted through the kidneys into the bladder and leaves your body through urine, usually without causing side effects. However, if you notice feeling something out of the ordinary, contact the scanning facility or an emergency doctor.

The study results will be provided by a doctor at the ward or outpatient clinic that referred you.

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This instruction is intended for our patients who are in a care relationship.