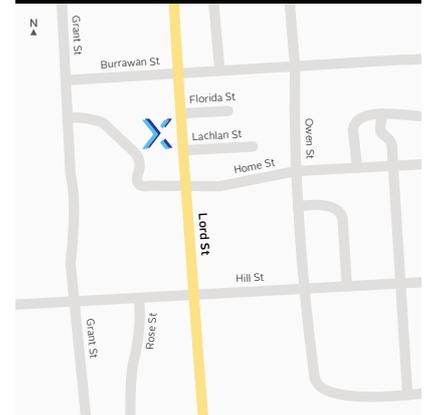


# CT Cardiac Angiogram

A CT Cardiac Angiogram is a non invasive CT scan of the heart that helps determine if the location and presence of fatty or calcified plaque deposits have narrowed a patient's coronary arteries. This information assists your doctor in deciding which preventative measures to take, either prescribing medicine and/or diet with exercise to lower the risk of heart attack or to seek a specialist opinion.



Depending on the severity of the blockage, your doctor may recommend a follow up Angioplasty, stent or surgery to treat your condition. The CT Cardiac Angiogram is a less invasive procedure than a Conventional Coronary Angiogram and is thus often considered ideal as the initial test. A Conventional Coronary Angiogram carries a higher risk of complications related to invasive access into the artery and also requires a greater recovery time. CT Cardiac Angiograms display the bone, soft tissue and blood vessels simultaneously and therefore may provide additional clinical or diagnostic information regarding the patient's condition that would not necessarily be identified on a Conventional Coronary Angiogram. This may eliminate the need for invasive procedures or improve their accuracy if required.



## WHAT ARE SOME COMMON REASONS FOR THIS PROCEDURE?

- › Chest pain
- › Unclear or inconclusive cardiac stress test results
- › Low/intermediate risk of coronary artery disease with symptoms of chest pain not brought on with physical exertion
- › Intermediate/high risk of coronary artery disease, but experience no typical signs eg. chest pain, fatigue during physical exertion or shortness of breath

## PORT MACQUARIE X-RAY

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# CT Cardiac Angiogram

## WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN I HAVE MY CARDIAC ANGIOGRAM?

You will be asked to remove all metal objects such as keys, clips, buttons, coins, mobile phones etc and change into an examination gown. In the CT scanning room, the Radiographer will ask you to lie on your back on a scanner table and remain still for the duration of the scan. Three Electrocardiogram (ECG) leads will be placed on your chest and connected to an ECG machine. An injection of intravenous contrast (dye) is used to highlight the blood vessels being examined. You may experience a warm flushing sensation, metallic taste in your mouth and some may experience a feeling similar to bladder fullness. This should pass relatively quickly and is of no concern as it is a normal reaction to the administration of this contrast medium. You may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds (longest 15 seconds). The scan generally only takes 20-30 minutes.

## WHO DOES MY CT CARDIAC ANGIOGRAM AND REPORT?

The person who operates the equipment is a Radiographer. They are university trained and accredited with the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA). The person who views and interprets the films is a doctor specialising in Radiology, known as a Radiologist. The Radiologist prepares a report for your doctor. The Radiologist has extensive advanced training and accreditation in CT Coronary Angiography.

## ARE THERE ANY RISKS OR SIDE EFFECTS FROM MY CT CARDIAC ANGIOGRAM?

Having this scan will expose your body to a low level of radiation. No radiation remains after the test. Female patients who are pregnant or think they might be pregnant must advise the Radiographer of this upon arrival and before the examination. If there is any doubt, a different test that doesn't use CT scan may be performed. If no substitute test is appropriate then the test may be cancelled pending confirmation as to

whether you are pregnant as CT scan may be harmful to the unborn child. The risk of harm from a diagnostic CT scan in an adult is very small and is balanced against the risk to your health by not investigating your symptoms in a clinically appropriate manner. The information gained from a CT scan, such as early diagnosis and treatment may have significant health benefits. Current cutting-edge technology, equipment design and the skill of our operators ensure that you receive the lowest radiation dose possible.

## CONTRAST

You will be provided with a questionnaire/consent form when you arrive at Port Macquarie X-Ray detailing the risks of the contrast medium (dye) used for this scan. The contrast is similar to that used in coronary catheterisation, but a lower volume. The contrast will only be administered after you have given your consent (permission) to do so, which will be formally documented on the questionnaire/consent form with your signature. Once you leave the clinic, you may resume normal activities and diet.

## HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR MY PROCEDURE?

When you phone to arrange your appointment one of our practice nurses will advise you of the preparation and requirements for this scan.

## WHAT IS THE COST OF MY CT CARDIAC ANGIOGRAM?

Medicare has very specific rules about whether CT Cardiac Angiograms are eligible for a Medicare rebate. Please discuss costs with our reception staff at the time of booking your appointment.

## THINGS TO BRING ALONG TO MY APPOINTMENT:

- > Previous films for area of clinical interest.
- > Referral (this is a legal requirement).