

AFTERCARE INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS AND CARERS FOLLOWING CARDIAC CT IMAGING

Having completed your CT cardiac angiogram procedure, the following information offers further support to alleviate any concerns or questions.

Immediately after the scan

- Once the procedure is complete, we will gently sit you upright and ensure you are steady on your feet.
- You may feel slightly dizzy or light headed due if you were administered IV beta blockers +/- GTN.
- You will be directed back to the patient preparation area where a Health Care Assistant (HCA) will take repeat observations (heart rate and blood pressure) if required. These will be recorded and the HCA will remove the IV cannula from your arm and apply a dressing.
- Now you can change back into your own clothes and remain for up to 10 min within our department. Observations may be repeated after 10 min if required by the supervising radiologist.

After leaving the CT Department

- If you have been taken beta blockers for the scan or if we have given you IV beta blockers on the day your HR and blood pressure will return to normal once you stop taking them (24-48hrs)
- If we have given you GTN spray/tablet you may suffer from a mild headache. The effects of GTN normally last between 20-30min.
- We recommend you drink plenty of fluids for the following 2-3 days post procedure to prevent dehydration.
- You should take your medication as normal.
- We recommend not to over exert yourself with strenuous exercise for 24hrs after your scan.

Complications

Cardiac CT is an established and trusted radiological investigation. It is safe, accurate and better tolerated by the patient than a conventional catheter angiogram. With any medical procedure there is always a small degree of risk. This will have been discussed with you prior to the procedure, when written consent was obtained and any concerns addressed.

Complications are extremely rare.

However, please seek medical advice from your GP or the Accident & Emergency Department if you experience any of the following over the subsequent 24 hours:

- Severe chest pain
- Feeling generally unwell

During your CT cardiac angiogram procedure, an injection of contrast or x-ray dye will have been administered to provide additional information from the scan. Allergic reaction to the contrast is extremely uncommon, but may manifest itself as itching or hives. Please seek medical advice and contact the CT department.

Results

Your scan will be interpreted by a Consultant Radiologist and a written report sent to your referring doctor. It is the responsibility of your referring consultant to issue your results. You should receive your results within 4 weeks. If you have concerns regarding results please contact your referring consultant or referring consultant's secretary.

Concerns and Queries

If you have any queries or issues, please contact the CT department where you were scanned:

- Royal Victoria Hospital CT
02896150130 or 028961 50011

We will always be happy to help.

For further information on CT scans visit the NHS website.