



# 64-Slice CT Angiography

Procedure Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Follow-Up Appointment Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

## *What is CT Angiography?*

A CT scan is an x-ray procedure which combines many x-ray images with the aid of a computer to generate cross-sectional views and three-dimensional images of the internal organs and structures of the body. Imagine your body as a loaf of bread and you are looking at one end of the loaf. As you remove each slice of bread, you can see the entire surface of that slice from the crust to the center. The body is seen on CT scan slices in a similar fashion from the skin to the central part of the body being examined.

### *CT can assist in:*

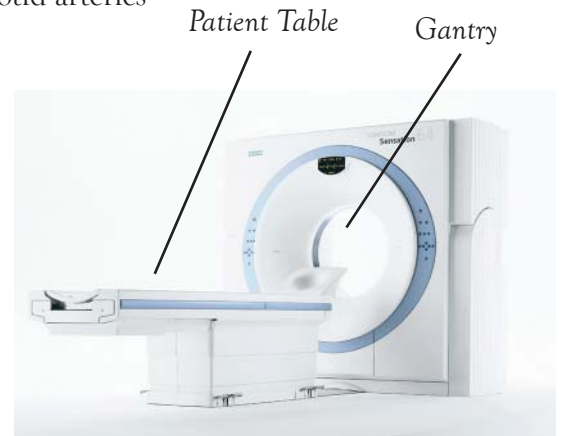
- Identifying soft plaque and calcium in your arteries
- Detecting aneurysms throughout the body, particularly in the aorta and carotid arteries
- Locating pulmonary embolisms (or blood clots) in the lungs

### *Important advantage of CT:*

- Your physician is now able to look at your coronary arteries non-invasively.
- It is completely painless.

## *What Happens During the Exam?*

During the exam you will lie on a comfortable patient table. This table will then slowly move you through the opening of the examination unit called the gantry. All you need to do now is pay attention to the instructions of the CT personnel who will ask you to hold your breath for 15-20 seconds and lay very still. The patient table will move slightly during the exam. As with conventional x-ray exams, you will not feel the scanner taking the images at all; you will only hear a low whirring noise.



## *Contrast Dye-Why?*

A contrast dye will be given intravenously to enhance the images of your heart. The dye used is an iodine-based liquid given in a vein which makes many organs and structures, such as the blood vessels and kidneys, much more visible on the CT scan. You may feel a warm to hot sensation when the dye enters your body. You may talk to the CT staff at any time during your scan, should you become uncomfortable in any way. Please let the nurse or the technologist know if you are allergic to contrast material prior to your exam.

## *How Long Does a CT Scan Take?*

The duration of the CT exam itself, when you are on the scanning table, is about 15 minutes. However, it is a 45 minute commitment for the entire appointment. The time spent not on the scanning table is used to prepare you for the exam by placing an IV in your arm and talking with the nurse about your previous medical history.

## *What You Should Know About Radiation Exposure*

CT scanners use x-rays. Modern CT scanners are designed to ensure the consistent reduction of radiation exposure to patients and staff. Today's CT scanners offer an optimal combination of low radiation exposure and short examination times while maintaining excellent image quality.

