

# Patient Information

## Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA)

Your doctor has recommended you for Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA). CTA is used to examine the health of blood vessels in your body, such as those in the brain, kidneys and legs. It can be used to identify weakened sections of arteries or veins and to visualize blood flow. CT Angiography provides your physicians with more-precise images of your blood vessels than either MRI or Ultrasound technology. A CT scanner uses a combination of a high-tech x-ray scanner and sophisticated computer analysis to provide detailed images of your blood vessels. Our team of subspecialty imaging physicians is led by Franklin Moser, M.D., our Clinical Chief of Interventional Neuroradiology.

### Before arriving at the S. Mark Taper Foundation Imaging Center:

- Depending on what part of your body is to be studied, you may need to limit your diet to clear liquids or to fast prior to your exam. Consult your doctor at least 24 hours before your exam for instructions on your diet.
- Because you will need to wear a hospital gown for your exam, wear clothing that can be changed easily.
- Leave all jewelry and valuables at home.
- Though we do not anticipate any delays in your exam, please consider bringing a book, magazine, or music player to help you pass the time while you are waiting.

### After Arriving:

- A radiology nurse or technologist will ask you a few questions regarding your medical history.
- You **must** inform the technologist, radiology nurse and/or physician of **any** allergies you may have before your exam, or if you are or might be pregnant.
- You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and a nurse or technologist will insert a small I.V. in your arm.

### During your exam:

- While positioning you on an exam table, the technologist will explain your procedure and answer any questions you may have.
- You will be asked to lie flat on your back. In some cases, pillows or straps may be used to keep the area being examined from moving during the scan.

## Patient Information (continued)

### During your exam:

- The exam table will slide into the scanner, only covering the part of your body which is being studied. The scanner is open at the back and the front, allowing you to see out.
- The technologist will *a/ways* be able to see and hear you during your exam.
- A contrast agent (dye) will be injected through your I.V. During the injection you may experience a warm sensation all over your body and a metal taste in your mouth. This is normal.
- You may be asked to hold your breath for a short time while the scanner takes a series of pictures. The time it takes to actually acquire images is very brief.
- The images will be reviewed, and if necessary, some may be repeated.
- This procedure usually takes approximately 15-30 minutes. Your total time commitment will be approximately one hour.

### After your exam:

- You may resume your normal diet.
- You should drink plenty of fluids to help flush the contrast dye out of your system.
- An imaging physician will examine your images and write a report of their findings. This report will be sent to your physician, usually within 24 hours. Some scans require more computer processing, and these may take longer to analyze.
- Your physician will contact you with the results of your exam.
- To request a copy of your images on a CD or film, or to request a copy of your report, call (310) 423-8000 and follow the prompts.

### Parking at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center:

- Imaging Center parking is located in Parking Lot 7 at the corner of San Vicente Blvd. and Gracie Allen Drive (Alden Drive). Enter off Sherbourne Drive.
- Or, park in the Medical Center, North Tower, Mezzanine Level off George Burns Road.
- The cost is \$3.50 with validation, which is available in the main lobby reception desk.
- Landmark: There is a large metal sculpture in the shape of the number "8" in front of the S. Mark Taper Foundation Imaging Center (large, green glass building).
- There is a curbside patient drop-off zone on Gracie Allen Drive, in front of the imaging center.