

Patient Information

CT Coronary Calcium Scan

Calcification in the coronary arteries is the earliest indicator of coronary artery disease. At Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, a new high-speed, multi-slice CT scanner allows our physicians to perform a 10 minute test to determine your calcium score. Your calcium score indicates the level of calcium deposits in your arteries. After taking into account your age, gender and cardiac risk factors, your calcium score is a strong measure of your risk for coronary artery disease.

Under the leadership of Daniel Berman, M.D., Director of Cardiac Imaging and Nuclear Cardiology, subspecialty imaging physicians, nurses, and technologists at the S. Mark Taper Foundation Imaging Center use this technology to obtain quick and painless high-quality pictures without an injection. Our team is highly experienced in this procedure, and our physicians have all received expert training in the interpretation of this test.

Who Should Take This Test:

- Women between the ages of 40 and 70.
- Men between the ages of 35 and 65.
- This is particularly true if you have any of the following risk factors:
 - Family history of heart disease
 - High cholesterol level
 - High blood pressure
 - Smoking
 - Obesity or
 - Diabetes

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

- Do not eat 4 hours prior to your procedure. You may drink water and take prescribed medications, as necessary.
- Please leave your jewelry and valuables at home.
- Please arrive 20 minutes before your scheduled exam to allow time for registration.
- Although we do not anticipate any delay in your scheduled appointment, we recommend that you bring a book, magazine, or music player to help pass the time while you are waiting.

After arriving:

- You will complete a simple, one-page cardiac questionnaire prior to your exam.
- Your blood pressure, height and weight will be recorded.
- A blood sample will be taken to determine your cholesterol and glucose levels (at no additional cost to you).
- You do not need to undress for this procedure.

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During your exam:

- The technologist will explain your procedure and answer any questions you may have.
- You will be asked to lie flat on your back. Your arms will be positioned above your head.
- Three monitoring wires will be placed on your chest to synchronize the scan with your heart motion.
- You will be asked to hold still and to briefly hold your breath.
- The images will be taken as you are moved through the scanner.
- The technologist will *a/ways* be able to see and hear you during your procedure.
- The scan is painless and will take approximately 10 minutes.

After your exam:

- A study of your pictures will be made by one of our world-renowned imaging cardiologists and the results sent to you and your physician, usually within 48 hours.
- The final report will contain findings from your medical history, your cholesterol level and results of the EBCT scan. These results will determine your potential of having early or significant coronary artery disease, as well as your risk for cardiac events.

Payment:

- Payment in full is due at the time of your appointment.
- Payment can be made in cash, by check or by most major credit cards.
- Most insurance carriers do not cover this test.

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.