HEART SCAN

A heart scan, or coronary artery screening determines if you have coronary artery disease. The scan uses advanced CT technology to calculate the amount of calcium or plaque in your coronary arteries. This is called your "calcium score". A high score relative to your age is statistically associated with a high potential for a heart attack.

Reasons to have a heart scan

A Heart Scan predicts your future risk. Knowing the risk allows an individual to take steps to prevent progression of coronary heart disease and prevent a heart attack.

According to the American Heart Association, coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death and disability in the United States for both men and women. Fifty percent of heart attacks occur in people with no known history of heart disease. Coronary artery disease can be slowed and sometimes reversed through lifestyle changes and medication.

The following individuals should consider a heart scan

The Heart Scan is most appropriate for asymptomatic men and women ages 40-65 who have no history of heart disease but have one or more of the following risk factors:

- Family history of heart disease
- Overweight
- High blood pressure
- Smoker
- Diabetes
- High cholesterol

What to expect during an exam

A Heart Scan is simple and painless. You will be exposed to x-ray radiation. The technologists are trained to use the minimum amount of radiation to produce the desired image.

Length and preparation for exam

The Heart Scan generally takes 5- 10 minutes.
No special preparation is needed for the exam.
You may go about your normal routine.

Getting results

After your exam, a radiologist will analyze and interpret the images from the exam and prepare a report.
The report will be sent to your physician who will share the results with you. To request a copy of the written report, please contact your physician's office.

Important reminder

Please do not bring siblings or small children to your procedure

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