Cardiac CT Angiography (CCTA)

**THE PROCESS**

**SEE YOUR DOCTOR**
CCTA is especially useful to decide that the coronary arteries are not the cause of chest discomfort or shortness of breath. If you are experiencing any symptoms, see your doctor for further exploration.

**CCTA ORDERED**
CCTA is generally considered best for individuals with symptoms but who have no prior history of coronary artery disease or who have unclear findings from a stress test. In certain cases, CCTA may be considered appropriate for patients who have previously experienced heart attacks, or who have undergone coronary stent placement or coronary artery bypass surgery.

**PHYSICAL PREPARATION**
You may be asked to do the following:
- Take a beta-blocker medication to lower your heart rate.
- Avoid caffeinated drinks or food and/or certain medications.
- Take a blood test.

**IV PREPARATION**
An intravenous (IV) line will be inserted into a vein in your arm. During some steps of the test, contrast dye will be injected through the IV. This may cause a warm feeling all over your body.

**LAYING DOWN**
You will be asked to lie on your back on the scanner bed. While you may lie on this table for approximately 10 - 30 minutes, most of this time will involve preparation. The actual images only take a few seconds to obtain.

**MONITORING**
The technologist or nurse will apply sticky patches called electrodes on your chest. This will be used to monitor your heart beat during the exam.

**THE SCAN**
You will be asked to lie still and will receive instructions to hold your breath for short periods of time while pictures are taken. It is very important to be absolutely still and to not breathe, move or swallow while the pictures are being taken.

**FOLLOW UP WITH YOUR DOCTOR**
Your doctor will read and interpret your scan to develop a treatment plan.

For more details, you may visit www.scct.org/WhatsCTA.