



The Perth Radiological Clinic Difference

- > a network of conveniently located community and hospital based locations
- > caring, helpful and professional staff
- > state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment
- > over 60 specialist radiologists, trained to provide you with accurate and reliable results
- > world class digital networking between clinics provides the benefits of second opinions from specialist radiologists, no matter which clinic you attend.

You can now request an appointment online via our website and our staff will call you back to confirm your appointment, please visit our website:

www.perthradclinic.com.au

An appointment has been made for you

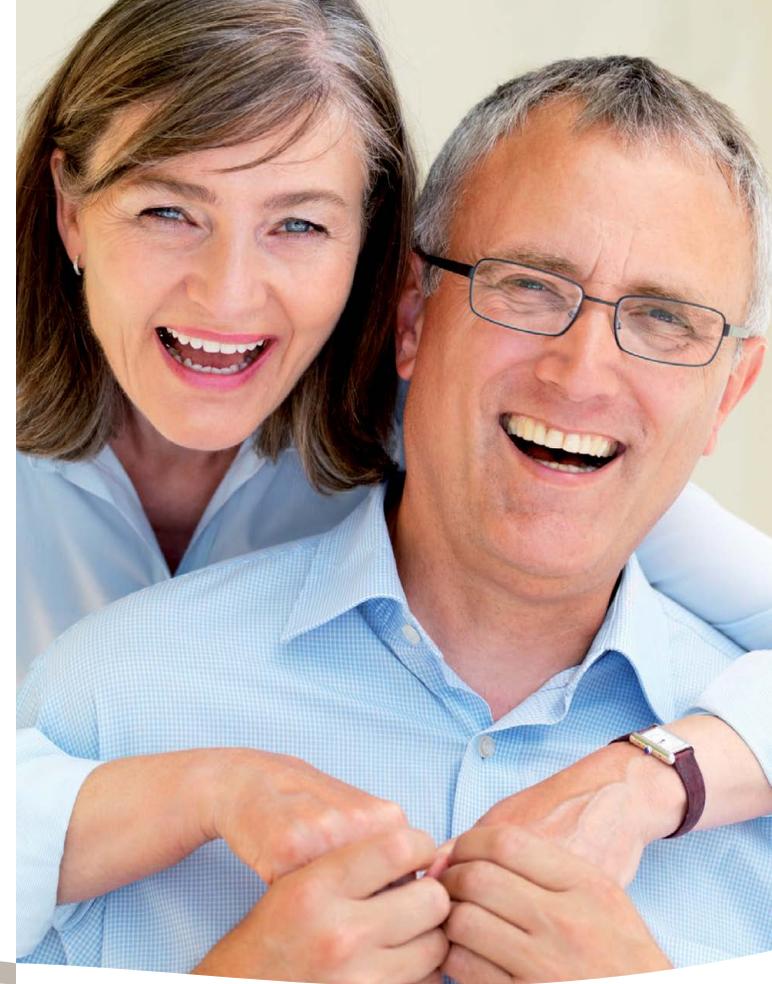
Clinic _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Time _____

Date _____



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A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

CT Coronary Angiography

For information regarding your appointment,
please see the back of this leaflet.

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What is a CT Coronary Angiography (CTCA) ?

CTCA is a relatively new scanning technique allowing non-invasive visualisation of the heart and coronary arteries. The coronary arteries supply the blood to the heart muscle and disease of these vessels is responsible for most heart attacks. CTCA also allows accurate visualisation of many other structures within and around the heart.

What are the uses for CTCA ?

The most common use for CTCA is in the assessment of symptomatic patients with suspected coronary artery disease. Risk factors for coronary artery disease include smoking, hypertension, diabetes and a family history. CTCA has also has a role in assessment of asymptomatic patients with strong family history of premature coronary artery disease. It may also be used in higher risk patients in whom invasive angiography is not desirable or possible, in patients with suspected developmental abnormalities, or in patients who have had previous heart surgery.

What should I expect during my scan?

You will be in the clinic for approximately 3 hours. You will be advised to avoid coffee, tea, cola and other sources of caffeine from the day before your scan.

Upon arrival, your procedure will be explained to you and any further questions you have regarding the test can be answered. Your relevant medical history will be assessed, your heart rate and blood pressure will be checked, and you will be asked to sign a consent form. You will then usually be given an oral medication known as a "beta-blocker" to slow your heart rate to a level optimal for scanning. Once your heart rate is at the ideal rate your scan will proceed.

Your heart beat will be monitored and you will be given a contrast injection into a vein in your arm. The contrast contains iodine and is used to improve the visibility of internal structures and vessels within the body. The actual scan itself will take approximately 15 minutes. You will be



asked to hold your breath a number of times during the scanning procedure.

Upon the completion of your scan you will be asked to stay in the clinic for up to 30 minutes to ensure any effects from your medication have resolved. You are encouraged to bring a companion who can drive you home, as you may still feel a little light headed walking or driving.

Extensive computer processing and assessment is performed following the initial scan, hence your full report and images will usually not be immediately available for you to take with you. Your report and images will be sent to your referring doctor for you.

What are the contraindications for CTCA ?

Contraindications include a known allergy to x-ray contrast, severe asthma, irregular heartbeat, poor cardiac output or kidney disease.

When you make your appointment, it is important that you advise the medical staff if you have asthma, diabetes, kidney problems, irregular heart rhythm, or have had an allergic reaction to a previous injection used in a radiology procedure.

Are there any possible adverse effects to CTCA ?

Medications used to slow your heart rate will usually wear off after about an hour, although you may feel light headed if you were to walk or exercise before fully recovering. They may also provoke asthma in asthmatics.

Allergy to the contrast agent may occur. This can range from mild effects such as sneezing, itchiness, rash and hives, to severe reactions. Severe or life threatening reactions are rare but may include breathing difficulties, a drop in blood pressure and swelling in the face and throat, and must be treated immediately by the medical staff, who are trained for such emergencies.

Perth Radiological Clinic is the first Practice in Western Australia to combine a number of new technologies* to minimise radiation dose whilst maximising image quality. Therefore the radiation dose received during a CTCA procedure is very low.

Patients with renal impairment (kidney disease) may experience worsening of kidney function following the iodinated contrast. This usually improves over several days.

** (Prospective Burst Gating + Adaptive Statistical Iterative Reconstruction)*

Please bring any previous imaging with you on the day of your examination. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask us!