



What is Cardiac Scoring?

Cardiac Scoring is a non-invasive method of obtaining information about the presence, location and extent of calcified plaque in the coronary arteries. A negative test indicates that the examination showed no sign of calcification within the coronary arteries. A positive test means coronary artery disease was present. The higher the calcium score the higher the likelihood of a heart attack. Your doctor may decide to take preventative measures either by prescribing medicine and/or diet with exercise to lower the risk of a heart attack and/or arrange further investigations.

Who does my Cardiac Scoring and report?

The person who operates the equipment is a Radiographer. They are university trained and accredited with the Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR). The person who views and interprets the scans is a doctor specialising in Radiology, known as a Radiologist. The Radiologist will prepare a report for your Health Care Professional

What should I expect when I have my Cardiac Scoring?

The test generally takes about 10 minutes to complete. You will be asked to remove all metal objects such as keys, clips, buttons, coins and mobile phones etc and wear an examination gown. The Radiographer will then ask you to lie on your back on the CT scanner table and you will be asked to remain still for the entirety of the scan. Three Electrocardiogram (ECG) leads will be placed on your chest and connected to an ECG machine. During the scan you will be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds (longest 15 seconds).

Are there any risk or side effects from having my Cardiac Scoring?

Having this scan will expose your body to a low level of radiation. No radiation remains after the test. Female patients who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant must advise the Radiographer of this upon arrival and before the examination. If there is any doubt, a different test that doesn't use x-rays may be performed. If no substitute test is appropriate then the test may be cancelled pending confirmation as to whether you are pregnant as x-rays may be harmful to the unborn child. The risk of harm from a diagnostic CT scan in an adult is very small and balanced against the risk of not performing the scan. The information gained from a CT such as an early diagnosis and treatment may have significant health benefits. The skill of the operator and the design of the machine ensure you receive the lowest radiation dose possible.

How do I prepare for my Cardiac Scoring?

When you phone to arrange your appointment one of our friendly reception staff will advise you of the preparation and requirements for this scan.

How much does my Cardiac Scoring cost?

This examination is not eligible for a Medicare rebate or private health fund claim. Therefore you will incur a fee, which will be discussed with you at the time of your appointment booking.

Things to bring along to my appointment:

- Previous films for area of clinical interest.
- Referral (this is a legal requirement).

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