



Coronary Calcium Imaging

There is now a painless, non-invasive test to check for calcium in your coronary arteries.

A CT heart scan, or coronary calcium scan, is a fast and accurate way to give your physician a look inside the blood vessels to determine if there are signs of potential disease. The presence of calcium can indicate you are at risk for a heart attack, even if symptoms are not present, and can help your physician determine the best course of action to manage your risk factors.

Am I a candidate?

We recommend the scan for:

- **Men over 45; Women over 55**
- **Past or present smokers**
- **Patients with high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol or diabetes**
- **Patients who are overweight or are inactive**
- **Patients with a family history of heart disease**

What should I expect?

No preparation is needed. No dyes are injected. A computed tomography (CT) scanner is used for the coronary calcium scan and an EKG records your heart's electrical activity. The high-speed CT scan captures multiple images that are then read by a UofL Physicians radiologist. If calcium is present, the computer will create a calcium score estimating the extent of coronary artery disease. Your physician will receive a full report outlining the results of the scan and follow-up recommendations.

The all-inclusive cost of the exam is \$99, which is not covered by insurance. A physician order is required for this procedure. This exam is performed in the CT Department located in the basement of the hospital.