

What is cardiac CT for calcium scoring?

CT (computed tomography) is a painless test that uses special X-ray equipment to obtain multiple cross section images of the body. These detailed images assist physicians in diagnosing and treating medical conditions. A CT calcium scoring scan is a noninvasive way of obtaining information about the location and extent of calcified plaque in the coronary arteries—the vessels that supply blood to the heart wall. Plaque is a build-up of fat and other substances, including calcium, which can over time narrow the arteries or even close off blood flow to the heart. The result may be a heart attack or chest pain known as angina. Because calcium is an indication of coronary artery disease, the amount detected on a cardiac CT scan is a helpful diagnostic tool. A positive test means that coronary artery disease is present, regardless of whether the patient is experiencing symptoms. The amount of calcification—expressed as a score—may help to predict the likelihood of a heart attack in the coming years.

CALCIUM SCORE	PRESENCE OF PLAQUE
0	No evidence of plaque
1-10	Minimal evidence of plaque
11-100	Mild evidence of plaque
101-400	Moderate evidence of plaque
Over 400	Extensive evidence of plaque

ARA CONVENIENCE

Exceptional patient care
Most insurance plans accepted and filed
Flexible office hours
Handicapped-accessible parking

**AUSTIN CENTER BOULEVARD
& ACB BREAST IMAGING**
6818 Austin Center Blvd., Suite 101
Austin, TX 78731
(512) 795-8505

★ **CEDAR PARK & CEDAR PARK
BREAST IMAGING**
12800 W. Parmer Ln., Suite 200
Cedar Park, TX 78613
(512) 485-7199

DRIPPING SPRINGS
170 Benney Lane, Suite 101
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
(512) 776-1176

★ **GEORGETOWN**
3201 S. Austin Avenue, Suite 105
Georgetown, TX 78626
(512) 863-4648 or
(512) 519-3441

★ **KYLE & KYLE BREAST IMAGING
CENTER**
4211 Benner Rd., Suite 100
Kyle, TX 78640
(512) 776-1150

★ **MANOR**
12700 Lexington St., Suite 300
Manor, TX 78653
(512) 776-1158

★ **MEDICAL PARK TOWER**
1301 W. 38th Street, Suite 118
Austin, TX 78705
(512) 454-7380

★ **MIDTOWN I**
901 W. 38th Street, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78705
(512) 519-3456

**MUELLER & MUELLER
CHILDREN'S IMAGING**
1301 Barbara Jordan Blvd.
Suite 104
Austin, TX 78723
(512) 480-0761

★ **QUARRY LAKE**
4515 Seton Center Parkway
Suite 105
Austin, TX 78759
(512) 519-3402

★ **ROCK CREEK PLAZA**
2120 N. Mays, Suite 220
Round Rock, TX 78664
(512) 238-7195

★ **SAN MARCOS**
1348 B Texas 123 South
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 392-1831 or
(888) 261-2149

★ **SOUTHWEST MEDICAL VILLAGE**
5625 Eiger Road, Suite 165
Austin, TX 78735
(512) 519-3475

★ **SOUTHWOOD**
1701 W. Ben White Blvd., Suite 170
Austin, TX 78704
(512) 428-9090

WESTLAKE
5656 Bee Caves Road
Building H, Suite 200
Austin, TX 78746
(512) 328-4984

★ **WILLIAM CANNON**
2501 W. William Cannon Drive
Building 5
Austin, TX 78745
(512) 346-7311

★ **WILSON PARKE**
11714 Wilson Parke Ave., Suite 175
Austin, TX 78726
(512) 519-3457

★ Locations offering
CT calcium scoring

Catch heart disease early with CT calcium scoring



ARA
DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

OCT 2023

SCHEDULING
(512) 453-6100

FAX REFERRALS
(512) 836-8869

ARA
DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING



According to the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and is a major cause of disability. The most common type of heart disease is coronary artery disease (CAD), which can lead to a heart attack. The risk of CAD can be reduced by early detection. ARA's board-certified radiologists, in conjunction with our skilled and experienced technologists and advanced CT scanners, are uniquely equipped to diagnose problems that could mean the difference between full recovery or continuous complications.

Who benefits from CT calcium scoring?

The goal of CT calcium scoring is to detect coronary artery disease (CAD) at an early stage when there are no symptoms and to determine its severity. It is a screening study that may be recommended by a physician for patients with risk factors for CAD but no clinical symptoms. The procedure is most often suggested for men aged 45 years or older and for post-menopausal women aged 55 and above.

ARA's low-dose CT scanners allow for an up to 60% reduction in radiation plus improved image quality compared to older scanners.

Some patients choose to have the test on their own, even if their doctors have not recommended it, in order to detect early-stage CAD. The major risk factors for CAD, other than age, are:

- abnormally high blood cholesterol levels
- family history of heart disease
- diabetes
- high blood pressure
- cigarette smoking
- obesity
- lack of physical activity

How is the procedure performed?

- The patient usually lies on his or her back on the CT examination table. Straps and pillows may be used to ensure correct positioning.
- ECG leads are attached to the chest in order for the scanner to record the electrical activities of the heart.
- The patient will be alone in the exam room for the scan but will be able to speak with the technologist at all times.
- The technologist will move the table through the CT scanner once to determine position and again for the actual scan. The patient is asked to hold their breath a few times for periods of 20 to 30 seconds while the images are recorded.
- The CT scan is usually completed within 5 to 10 minutes. Normal activities may be resumed after the procedure.

Ask your health care provider about getting a referral for a CT calcium scoring exam at ARA Diagnostic Imaging. It's one of our quickest and easiest exams.

What are the benefits?

- CT calcium scoring is a convenient and non-invasive way of assessing the amount of calcium in the coronary arteries.
- The examination takes little time and causes no pain.
- The examination does not require injection of contrast material.
- The examination can suggest the presence of CAD even when the coronary arteries are less than 50 percent narrowed. Standard cardiac tests will not reliably detect this level of blockage, and more than half of all heart attacks occur with less than 50 percent narrowing.

Who interprets the results and how do I get them?

A radiologist, a medical doctor with board certification who is also specifically trained to supervise and interpret radiology examinations, will analyze the images and send a signed report to the patient's referring physician and/or primary care physician, who will then share the results with the patient. A copy is also delivered to the patient's home address.

