

CT Scan of the Coronary Arteries (Cardiac CT)

Dear Patient,

You have been scheduled for a CT scan of your coronary arteries (cardiac CT) at Zug Cantonal Hospital. Please read the following information carefully and complete the attached questionnaire. If anything is unclear, or if you have further questions, these can be discussed with us on the day of your appointment.

What is a CT scan?

A CT (computed tomography) scan is an imaging technique that uses X-rays to produce detailed cross-sectional images of the body. As the X-ray tube rotates and the examination table moves slowly through the scanner, a three-dimensional image is created. Because different tissues and organs absorb X-rays to varying degrees, this allows us to distinguish structures very precisely. You will lie comfortably on a brightly lit CT table. The examination is quiet and only takes a few minutes. The images are processed using specialised software and then reviewed by our radiologists.

Preparing for your scan

For the best possible image quality during a cardiac CT scan, it is important that your resting heart rate is steady and as low as possible. Ideally, your heart rate should be below 62 beats per minute. To help achieve this, please take one tablet of Procoralan® 5 mg with water the day before your scan and one tablet on the morning of the examination. This medication slows down your heart rate. If your resting heart rate is already below 62 beats per minute, you do not need to take the medication. Possible but uncommon side effects include dizziness or brief visual darkening due to the slower heart rate. Headaches or increased sensitivity to light may occur in rare cases. You may continue taking your other regular medications as usual. Before the scan, we will check your pulse again. If necessary, we may give you an additional medication (a beta-blocker) via a vein to further lower your heart rate. We will also administer nitroglycerin, which helps widen the coronary arteries and improves the quality of the images. This is given as a spray under the tongue and is absorbed quickly through the lining of the mouth. Please note: Nitroglycerin can interact with medications such as Viagra® and Cialis®. You must not take these medications within 24 hours prior to your scan.

What happens during the examination?

Before the scan, a small intravenous cannula will be inserted into a vein in your arm. Through this, you will receive an iodine-containing contrast agent (see below). We will also measure your blood pressure and monitor your heart rhythm using ECG electrodes. During the scan, please lie still and follow the breathing instructions given to you.

Contrast agent

During the examination, the contrast agent will be injected through the cannula. In very rare cases, iodine-containing contrast can cause an allergic reaction. For this reason, we will ask you beforehand about any known allergies (for example, to iodine). Most reactions are mild and can be treated immediately with appropriate medication. Severe reactions are extremely rare and can also be managed promptly. Many patients experience a brief warm sensation throughout the body when the contrast is injected. You might feel a slight metallic taste or a brief urge to urinate, which is normal and goes away quickly.

After the examination

After the scan, you should not drive a vehicle. However, you may otherwise resume your normal daily activities. To help your kidneys eliminate the contrast agent, please drink plenty of fluids over the next 24 hours (water, fruit juices, tea). If you develop symptoms such as a skin rash, nausea, or any other pain after the examination, please contact your GP or attend the emergency department. The images will be reviewed by our radiologists in collaboration with the cardiology team. The results will be sent to your referring doctor, who will discuss them with you.

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and bring it with you on the day of your appointment. If you have any questions, we will be happy to answer them when you attend.

For a smooth examination, we need the following information from you:

Surname _____ First name _____ Date of birth _____

Height (cm) _____ Weight (kg) _____

Ja Nein

1. Have you taken the Procoralan® 5 mg tablets that were sent to you? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If yes: ☐ 1 tablet in the evening / ☐ 1 tablet on the morning of the examination
Haben Sie von den Ihnen zugeschickten Tabletten Procoralan® 5mg eingenommen? Wenn ja: 1 am Abend 1 am Morgen des Untersuchungstag
2. Have you had a computed tomography (CT) scan before? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Ist bei Ihnen schon früher eine Computertomografie durchgeführt worden?
3. Have you received contrast agents before? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If yes, did you tolerate them well? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Haben Sie schon früher Röntgen-Kontrastmittel bekommen? Wenn ja, haben Sie es gut vertragen?
4. Do you have any medical device in or on your body? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 (☐ Pacemaker, ☐ prosthesis, ☐ stents)
Haben Sie ein medizinisches Gerät im oder am Körper? (Herzschrittmacher, Prothesen, Stents)
5. Do you have any known intolerance/allergy? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If yes, which one?
Ist bei Ihnen eine Unverträglichkeit/Allergie bekannt? Wenn ja, welche?
6. Do you have diabetes (high blood sugar)? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If yes, which medication do you take?
Haben Sie Diabetes (erhöhten Blutzucker)? Wenn ja, welches Medikament nehmen Sie?
7. Do you have hyperthyroidism? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Haben Sie eine Schilddrüsen-Überfunktion?
8. Do you have any known kidney disease? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Haben Sie eine bekannte Nierenerkrankung?
9. Do you have any known infectious disease (Hepatitis, HIV+, TB)? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Ist eine Infektionskrankheit bei Ihnen bekannt (Hepatitis, HIV+, TBC)?
10. Is there a possibility that you are pregnant? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Besteht die Möglichkeit einer Schwangerschaft?

By signing, I confirm that the above questions have been answered correctly and give my consent for the CT examination as well as for the necessary exchange of medical information and image data.

Date _____ Signature _____

☐ The form was completed by a representative: _____