

Computed tomography of the heart and major blood vessels with a contrast agent

A computed tomography (CT) scan of the heart is a radiological test method utilising ionising radiation that enables layered and three-dimensional images of the heart to be obtained.

A CT scan of the heart and major blood vessels (aorta, pulmonary artery) is performed with the aim of assessing the anatomy of parts of the heart (heart chambers, heart valves) and major blood vessels. The images contain a cross-section of the heart and major blood vessels in different planes. The quantity of radiation during the scan exceeds that of a conventional x-ray; the indication for performing a CT scan is decided by the treating physician who will also provide a referral. During the study, the patient lies on an examination table which moves back and forth in a tunnel-like room; the patient's vital signs are monitored. A contrast agent is used in performing the scan.

A referral is required for the test.