

# Care Gram

# Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA)

**Date of Test:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Test Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Welcome**

Welcome to Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) Radiology Department. Your doctor has requested a Computerized Tomography Angiography (CTA). A radiographer who specializes in advanced X-ray will do the test. A radiologist will read the test.

## **How the Test Works**

A CTA uses X-rays to look at blood flow in arteries and veins for the brain, lungs, kidneys, arms, and legs. The scanner has a doughnut-shaped ring. The sensors in the scanner detect X-rays passing through your body. The information from the sensors is processed by computers. Then, it is displayed as cross-sectional images or three-dimensional pictures. You will have a contrast material injected into your vein. The contrast will help the blood vessels show up better.

Here are some common uses for this test:

- Rule out pulmonary embolism
- Look at blood flow to the arteries in the kidneys
- Find aneurysms (weakened blood vessels)
- Find atherosclerotic disease (narrowing of the arteries)
- Find clots in veins
- Check a stent that was already placed
- Look at tumors and the arteries around them

## **Allowing Time**

The test usually takes about 30 minutes. You should allow more time for your entire visit.

## **Preparation**

Nothing to eat or drink for 3 hours before the test.

## **Your Role**

1. Relax during the test. It is important to stay still and hold your breath when asked.



**Licking Memorial  
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2. Parents of small children need to be patient, yet firm. This test can be hard for children.
3. If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, be sure to let your doctor know before the test begins.
4. Please tell the registered nurse (R.N.) or radiographer if you have a history of kidney disease or if you take an oral diabetic medication or take a blood thinning medication.

### Registering

Please report directly to the Radiology Department on the first floor of LMH. Come to this area 20 minutes before your scheduled test time.

### Special Instructions for Outpatients

These instructions only apply to you if your doctor has ordered hydration therapy prior to your CT scan. Your doctor may have ordered for you to have an injection of a contrast material into your vein. Guidelines have been established requiring certain individuals to have a blood sample taken prior to having your CT scan. This blood test is to provide us with information regarding your kidney function because the body depends on the kidneys to remove the contrast material. If the blood test shows that the kidney function is normal, you may be asked to return to the Hospital on a different day. We will schedule you to come to the Hospital early to have IV fluids before your scan. You will report to the Outpatient Clinic on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor prior to your scan for about 4 hours of fluids (hydration) and then again immediately after the scan for 2 more hours. **We ask that you be aware that the total time spent at the Hospital on that day may be up to 8 hours.** You may eat or drink up to 3 hours before the scan unless you have been advised differently by your doctor or the Radiology Department, and then you are free to eat after the scan is complete.

### During the CTA

- For this test, you may be asked to put a hospital gown on. You will need to remove jewelry, hair clips, clothing and dentures. You will be asked to lie on a narrow table.
- First, the radiographer will position the area of your body to be studied inside the scanner. The X-ray tube will rotate around you. Then, you will receive the injection of contrast material.
- As the test begins, you may hear humming, buzzing, or clicking sounds from the scanner. The table may move to a new position.
- Radiology personnel will observe you during the test from the CT Control Room. You may talk with the personnel through an intercom.
- The injection may make you:
  - Feel warm and flushed,
  - Have a metallic taste in the mouth, or
  - Feel the need to urinate.These are normal. They will last only 1-2 minutes and are not cause for concern.
- **Please let the radiographer know if you begin to: itch, feel short of breath, have problems swallowing, or are uncomfortable.**

### After the Test

- If you were receiving hydrating IV fluids, you will return to the Outpatient Clinic to finish your infusion.

- If you received a contrast agent, it will be removed through your urine and should not discolor the urine or stool.
- Be sure to drink plenty of fluids to help your body eliminate the contrast agent. If your doctor has restricted your fluids, please check with him/her about this.
- You may return to your regular diet, unless otherwise instructed by your doctor, or unless you have other tests.

### **Finding Out the Results**

The radiologist will study your test and give the findings to your doctor. Your doctor will talk to you about the results.

### **Reminder**

- If you have any questions about your test, please call (740) 348-4710.
- Go to the Radiology Department on the first floor 20 minutes before your test.