**What Are the Risk Factors for Heart Disease?**
- Men 45 or older, women 55 or older
- Sedentary lifestyle
- Elevated cholesterol levels
- Chronically elevated stress levels
- Family history of heart disease
- Elevated blood pressure
- Diabetes
- History of smoking

**What is CT Coronary Angiography?**

CT coronary angiography is a non-invasive, painless, fast, outpatient examination of coronary arteries utilizing our fast multislice CT (computed tomography) scanner. This fast subsecond scan with help of ECG gating allows us to capture images of the heart between beats and visualize coronary arteries in a single breath hold. CT Coronary Angiography is much safer without the risks of invasive angiography & it can localize, visualize & quantify the earliest possible evidence of coronary artery disease.

Using this technology, we are able to non-invasively evaluate the coronary arteries to assess for calcified and atheromatous atherosclerotic plaque, and assess for stenosis in the main coronary arteries. In the recent past, only invasive coronary angiography performed using an arterial catheter could provide this type of information. While this exam does not take the place of a diagnostic and therapeutic coronary angiogram it can be used to assess the artery lumen, artery wall and effectively exclude significant obstructive coronary artery disease in the main coronary arteries. It also allows for the evaluation of the heart size, aberrant coronary artery anatomy, muscle wall thickness, valvular anatomy and coronary artery bypass graft patency.

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**What Does the Procedure Involve?**

After obtaining IV access, you will be placed on the CT scanning table and given intravenous contrast while the CT scanner acquires pictures of the area of interest. Most people experience a temporary warming sensation while the contrast goes in which dissipates rapidly. The IV is removed and your scan is complete. The real work of CTA comes after the images are acquired, when our radiologists utilize powerful 3D computer workstations to process the images and evaluate the source data and create real anatomic displays of the vessels.

**Why is CT Coronary Angiography an Excellent Alternative to Catheter Angiography?**

While standard catheter angiography is still considered the gold standard for diagnosing coronary arterial disease, it does require arterial access with catheter placement and its slight risk as well as a post procedural recovery for up to six hours. Compared to catheter angiography, CT coronary angiography is a less invasive and a more patient-friendly procedure. Although contrast is injected through an artery in catheter angiography, CT coronary angiography contrast is injected into a vein which is technically less difficult and has a very low risk of complications. As a result, the patients typically leave immediately following the procedure and can resume normal activities.

CT coronary angiography, because of its non-invasiveness, OPD basis & low cost is considered as a ‘gate keeper’ for the catheter coronary angiography. In only a few minutes you can find out if you have a problem that needs to be fully evaluated.

**Who Will Interpret the Exam and How Do I Get the Results?**

Once the images are obtained and we perform our multiplane reconstruction, our team of in-house radiology physicians will interpret your exam, and Tower Diagnostic will supply your results to your treating physician.
Who Should Undergo Contrast Enhanced CT Coronary Angiography?

Based upon thorough review of the medical literature, CT coronary angiography provides useful information for the following patients:

- Anyone who is at high risk for coronary artery disease based on known risk factors.
- Men age 40 or greater and women age 45 or greater with a positive family history and/or elevated cholesterol levels.
- Patients who have symptoms of "atypical" chest pain with an equivocal stress test.
- Patients who are on cholesterol-reducing medications, or who are on exercise and nutrition therapies. For these patients it is useful to follow the progression or regression of coronary artery disease and modify treatment accordingly.

To schedule your exam call the caring dedicated staff at Tower Diagnostic Center today at 813-874-3177.

1 in 5 People Have Heart Disease

Are You Aware...

Coronary heart disease is the most common form of heart disease, the leading cause of death for Americans? Approximately 1.1 million Americans suffer a heart attack each year, and about 515,000 of these people die – 250,000 before they reach a hospital. (American Heart Association, 2003)

Ask your doctor about Tower Diagnostics’ CT Coronary Angiography, Tampa’s newest cutting-edge procedure that can accurately diagnose the condition of your heart and reduce the risk of heart attack.

Other Locations

- 2106 S. Lois Ave., Tampa
- 4700 North Habana Ave., Suite 104, Tampa
- 1408 W. Reynolds St. Suite E, Plant City

Other Screening Exams Available

- Calcium Scoring
- Lung Screening
- Virtual Colonoscopy Screening
- Abdomen & Pelvis Screening
- Full Body Screening

To learn additional information regarding Tower Diagnostic Center, login to our website at www.towerdiagnostic.com

or call (813) 874-3177