Care Gram

Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA)

Date of Test: _____ **Test Time:** _____

Welcome
Welcome to the Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) Radiology Department. Your doctor has requested a Computerized Tomography Angiogram (CTA). A radiographer who specializes in advanced X-ray will do the test. A radiologist (doctor who specializes in radiology) 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. Computers process the information from the sensors. Then, it is displayed as cross-sectional images or three-dimensional pictures. You will have a special medication called a contrast agent injected into your vein. The contrast agent will help the blood vessels show up better.

Here are some common uses for this test:
- Locate blockage in a lung artery (pulmonary embolism)
- Look at blood flow to the arteries in the kidneys
- Find weakened blood vessels (aneurysms)
- Find narrowed or hardened arteries (atherosclerotic disease)
- Locate clots in veins
- Check a stent that was already placed
- Look at tumors and the surrounding arteries

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

Preparation
No preparation is required. If you have any questions about your test, please call (220) 564-4710.

Your Role
1. Relax during the test. It is important to stay still and hold your breath when asked.
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 a blood-thinning medication.

Licking Memorial Health Systems
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Registering
Please report directly to the Registration area on the LMH First Floor 20 minutes before your scheduled test time unless you need blood work done. If blood work is needed prior to your CTA, please arrive 60 minutes prior to exam time.

Special Instructions for Outpatients
These instructions **only apply to you if your doctor has ordered hydration (fluid) therapy prior to your CT scan**. If you are scheduled to receive a contrast agent, you may be asked to go to the Laboratory for a blood test prior to having your CT scan. Certain people must have a blood test for kidney function prior to receiving the contrast agent. Healthy kidney function is needed to remove the contrast agent from your body. If the blood test shows that the kidney function is not 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 LMH First Floor next to the Emergency Department, prior to your scan for about 4 hours of fluids and again right after the scan for 2-4 more hours. **Please be aware that the total time spent at the Hospital on that day may be up to 8 hours.**

During the CTA

- For this test, you may be asked to put on a hospital gown. 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 staff will observe you during the test from the CT Control Room. You may talk with them through an intercom.
- You will receive an IV so that we can inject the contrast agent. The injection may make you:
  - Feel warm and flushed
  - Have a metallic taste in your mouth
  - Feel the need to urinate

  These symptoms are normal, last only 1-2 minutes, and are not cause for concern.
- **Please let staff know if you begin to itch, feel short of breath, have problems swallowing, or are uncomfortable.**

After the Test

- If you were receiving 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 (6-8 glasses of water for 2 days) to help your body remove 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 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.

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This Care Gram is for information purposes only. It may become out-of-date over time. Ask a doctor or a healthcare professional about your specific condition.