



Coronary CTA

Are You At Risk For Heart Disease?

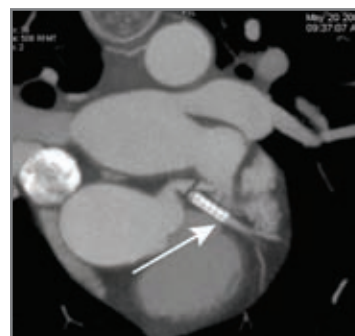
Coronary artery disease is the #1 cause of mortality in females. In the year 2000, 505,661 females died of coronary artery disease compared with 267,009 deaths caused from all cancers. More women than men die every year from stroke. 75-92% of coronary artery disease patients and 95% who had a fatal myocardial infarction had at least one identifiable risk factor.

The most common symptoms related to coronary artery disease are crushing chest pain radiating to the left arm or jaw, shortness of breath, and fatigue. Women present differently than men when stricken with coronary artery disease. Women's symptoms are more often vague and sometimes misleading.

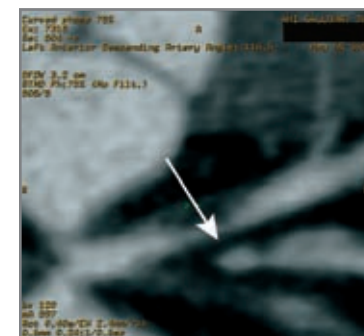
Coronary CT angiography is a test that images the coronary arteries. It is noninvasive, involves injection of intravenous contrast, and can be done at very low levels of radiation. Atlantic Medical Imaging pioneered the prospective gating technique which allows us to perform Coronary CT angiography with radiation doses ranging from 70-90% less than that of a SPECT nuclear medicine stress test. Coronary CT angiography has an outstanding sensitivity for coronary artery disease. It detects disease in patients that have it in greater than 95%, but most importantly, it has a 100% negative predicted value. This means that the test will be negative 100% of the time when the patients have normal coronary arteries. This allows us to rapidly determine whether a patient has coronary artery disease or not.

Many patients suffer under the burden of a significant family history for decades before knowing that their coronary arteries are normal. Relieving patients of this emotional burden is a tremendous benefit. More importantly, Coronary CTA is highly accurate for determining the degree of coronary artery disease and coronary artery stenosis.

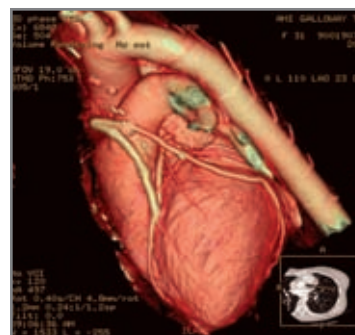
Coronary CT angiography is not intended to replace coronary artery catheterization. Coronary CT angiography is of great benefit in preventing patients from having coronary artery catheterization that do not need it. Furthermore, coronary artery disease detects eccentric soft plaque. 86% of heart attacks come from the rupture of eccentric plaque that is not causing a blockage in the coronary arteries. These plaques are invisible to stress tests until there is greater than a 70% stenosis and usually invisible to a coronary artery catheterization for the same level of disease. Coronary CT angiography can offer an early warning of coronary artery disease decades prior to it potentially causing a heart attack.



Evaluation of Coronary Stent



Dangerous Soft Plaque Identified



3-D Image of the Heart



Normal Coronary Artery