



Cardiac Computed Tomography (CT)

1.0 WHAT IS IT?

A CT scan (computed tomography) is a more detailed imaging test than an ultrasound or X-ray. It provides important information about the coronary arteries and/or aorta.

2.0 HOW SAFE IS IT FOR ME?

A cardiac CT may be performed during your pregnancy only if your doctor thinks that there is important information to be obtained that cannot be obtained from other studies. It is generally considered safe for the mother.

3.0 ISSUES FOR THE MOTHER

For mothers, the risks of a CT scan are small. They include a bit more radiation than an X-ray and possible reactions to the dye, like a rash or nausea. Serious complications such as severe allergy or kidney problems are very rare.

4.0 ISSUES FOR THE BABY

The main risk for the baby comes from the X-rays used during the scan, but doctors take special precautions to keep this exposure very low, and the test is only done if it is truly necessary.

5.0 MEDICAL CARE DURING PREGNANCY AND DELIVERY

If a CT scan is needed during pregnancy, doctors take every precaution to protect you and your baby. They minimize X-ray exposure, use shielding when possible, and only give contrast dye if essential.