

Schedule your appointment with Charlotte Radiology.

Calcium scoring exams do require a physician's order, so ask for a referral to Charlotte Radiology. Our physicians are subspecialized in body imaging, working hand-in-hand with your physician to diagnose and treat disease. Appointments are scheduled Monday through Friday. Please arrive 15 minutes early to allow time for registration.

Carolinas Imaging Services (outpatient centers)
704.442.4390

Atrium Health Facilities
704.512.2060

Visit CharlotteRadiology.com for more information on procedures, technology, our subspecialized physicians and more.



CALCIUM SCORING

Your experts in imaging.



Advances in Cardiac Imaging

Coronary artery disease (CAD) is the #1 killer of Americans. More die each year of heart disease than all types of cancer combined. CAD most commonly results from plaque deposits in the wall of the coronary arteries, which causes the arteries to narrow (atherosclerotic disease). Recent advances in multi-detector CT technology allow for noninvasive studies of the coronary arteries. These studies create detailed three-dimensional images of the beating heart within the timeframe of a single breath-hold. Charlotte Radiology is proud to offer this technology through two coronary artery studies: Calcium Scoring and Coronary CT Angiography (CCTA).

Calcium Scoring

The calcium scoring exam is used to quantify the amount of calcified (hardened) plaque in the coronary arteries. Patients are given a numerical "score," as well as a report comparing his or her score to others of the same age and sex. This exam is not intended to replace your usual routine doctor's evaluation, but the results can be very valuable when considered in conjunction with other clinical risk factors, such as family history, cholesterol level and lipid profile. Your calcium score can help your physician determine your risk of a heart attack and the best possible treatment plan for CAD.

Who needs a calcium scoring exam?

Individuals at high risk for developing heart disease should have a calcium scoring exam. Risk factors include:

- Age (men 40+, women 45+)
- High cholesterol
- History of smoking
- High blood pressure
- Family history of heart disease
- High stress levels
- Sedentary lifestyle
- Diabetes

Individuals who exhibit one or more risk factors are encouraged to speak with their physician about the benefits of calcium scoring. Patients who have previously undergone cardiovascular treatment or surgery, including coronary stenting, coronary bypass surgery, pacemaker placement or valve replacement, are not candidates for this screening procedure.

What to Expect

The calcium scoring scan takes 10 minutes and involves no injections or medications. You will remain fully clothed for the exam, lying on a table while the technologist places ECG leads on your chest. As the scan is performed, you will hold your breath for a brief period in order to ensure adequate picture quality. One of our subspecialized radiologists will then study the scan and send a report with your calcium score to your physician. Your physician will discuss the results with you and recommend the appropriate treatment, which could include diet and lifestyle changes, medication and/or further testing.

