What is Coronary Artery Disease?

Our bodies deposit fatty material called lipids inside our blood vessels and then gradually solidify these deposits with calcium. These “plaques” are what cause coronary artery disease.

What is Calcium Scoring?

A fairly direct relationship exists between the amount of calcified plaque and the total amount of coronary artery disease. Using high-tech CT scanners, we can now measure the amount of hard, calcified plaques. Multi-slice CT scanners are the latest innovation in Computed Tomography (CT) machines. They take more detailed pictures in a fraction of the time of previous CT scanners.

You might consider a Calcium Score Scan if ...

- You have an abnormal EKG
- You have hypertension
- You have diabetes
- You have high cholesterol
- You have heart disease in your family
- You smoke or have smoked in the past
- You experience chest pain

A calcium score test is not advised if you are pregnant.

Multi-Slice CT is Quick and Convenient

- Patients can remain in street clothing for the test.
- No preparation is required.
- Images are taken during a single breath hold.
- No injections or blood draws are needed.
- The entire examination takes less than 5 minutes.

Your Calcium Score report will be ready for you in about 15 minutes after your scan. It will include:

- A total calcium score with references to score ranges for your age group
- Individual scores for the major coronary arteries
- Images of your heart

The report will give you a disease category with some basic suggestions about how to best manage your heart health.

Heart Health Facts

- Heart disease is the #1 cause of death in developed countries.
- Each year, over 1.5 million heart attacks occur in the United States.
- Annually, heart attacks account for over 500,000 deaths in the United States.
- The progression of atherosclerotic heart disease can be halted or potentially reversed when found early.