



CT Calcium Scoring

Exam scheduling (218)249-5593
St. Luke's (218)249-5555
Diagnostic Imaging
(218)249-5222
www.slhduluth.com/hospital/imaging/

Exam Information

Diagnostic Imaging

What is a CT calcium scoring exam?

CT scans (sometimes called CAT scans) are specialized xray exams that produce detailed pictures of the area examined. A CT calcium scoring exam will measure the amount of calcium in the arteries of your heart to rate your risk for heart disease.

How is the exam performed?

You will be lying on your back on a padded table. The technologist will position you for your exam using pillows, if necessary, to make you comfortable.

During the scan the table will move into the "donut" shaped scanner.

A set of EKG leads will be placed on your chest. Several sets of images will be taken. You will be asked to hold your breath for each set.

How should I prepare for the exam?

Bring a copy of the order written by your doctor. You will also need to bring a list of your current medications.

Dress in comfortable clothes. Try to wear clothing without metal (such as belt buckles, bras with underwire or metal clips, etc.) If this is not possible, a gown will be provided for your exam.

What will I feel during the exam?

Some patients may find it difficult to lie still for the duration of the exam due to chronic pain. Speak to your physician or to the technologist before the scan if you have concerns of this nature.

Who interprets the exam and when will I get my results?

After the exam, a cardiologist who is specially trained to interpret CT calcium scoring exams will review your images and send a written report to the physician that ordered the exam for you. That physician will then contact you with your results.