A word from the director

We are pleased to share that the OHSU Knight Cardiovascular Institute is offering the coronary artery calcium score imaging test. Because arterial calcium buildup is an indicator of atherosclerotic burden, a person's coronary artery calcium score can help determine what steps should be taken to minimize risk of a future stroke or heart attack. For patients, the test is painless, quick and noninvasive.

If you have any questions or would like to consult with our team, please contact us at 800-245-6478.

Sincerely,
Michael Shapiro, D.O., FACC, FSCCT
Director, Cardiac MRI and CT
What do the results mean?

A coronary calcium score of zero indicates the absence of calcified atherosclerotic plaque in the coronary arteries and is associated with an excellent 5-15 year prognosis. However, a CACS of zero does NOT eliminate the need for therapeutic lifestyle change therapy in patients with other risk factors. Prudent therapy in such patients would dictate a prolonged trial of diet and exercise before considering medical therapy for an elevated LDL cholesterol level.

A score of 100 or greater is associated with an increased future CHD risk and should be viewed as an indicator for the need for more intensive risk factor modification. Achievement and maintenance of lipid goals and careful attention to management of other CHD risk factors is warranted.

The American Society of Echocardiography recommends stress echocardiography as an acceptable and reasonable test to be performed in patients with a CACS of 400 or greater.

Please note this test is not generally covered by insurance, but costs an affordable $75.