A CT angiogram of the Ascending Aorta, or Root of the Thoracic Aorta, is one of the most reliable non-invasive procedures for evaluation size and function. Please check with your insurance company if your health plan covers the cost of the procedure. Some insurance companies require a pre-certification call prior to the test. If your insurance company does not cover the cost you will be responsible.

UPON ARRIVAL (approximately 10 minutes)

When you arrive, you will register and answer questions asked by the receptionist. You will need to sign a consent for your procedure and for the administration of a contrast agent.

YOUR ASCENDING AORTA CT ANGIOGRAM IS SCHEDULED AT THE APPLETON HEART INSTITUTE ON

Date: _________________________________

Arrival Time: ___________________________

Blood-work needed? Y or N

Procedure (scan) Time: ___________________
PREPARATION (to complete at home)

- You will not be allowed to eat 4 hours prior to your arrival time.
- You may continue and are encouraged to drink water or clear juices until the time of your procedure. No caffeinated drinks for 24 hours prior to exam. Please do not exercise the morning of your exam.
- You may take your usual medications the day of unless otherwise notified.
- Please follow instructions for the oral beta-blocker and pre-medications of contrast (dye) sensitivities (if appropriate).
- Women are advised to wear a sports type bra or a bra that does not contain an under wire, the hooks in the front or back or okay. If not possible, you will be asked to change into a gown.
- Personal piercing body jewelry should be removed prior to your arrival.
- Implanted devices are non removable and will not be harmed.

PROCEDURE (Approximately 30-45 minutes depending on your heart rate)

You may have an I.V. started in your arm, have your blood pressure checked and heart rate monitored. Three EKG patches will be put onto your chest for the scan. You will have 3 sets of images preformed, while holding your breath for 7-10 sec each time. The 3rd set of images will be with the contrast infusing, this may make you feel warm all over, and passes quickly. After the last set of images, your I.V. will be removed and your test is complete.

POST PROCEDURE CARE

You are encouraged to drink additional fluids to help excrete the contrast from your system. Water and juice are the preferred fluid.

FOR DIABETIC PATIENTS ONLY

You will need a follow-up renal function blood test done at your physicians’ office. Recommended time off Metformin based diabetic medications such as Metformin, Glucophage, Glucovance, or Avandamet is 24-48 hours. Once your lab work results are checked with your physician, their office should let you know when to resume that medication.

PLEASE CALL YOUR PHYSICIAN IF YOU NOTICE

- Shortness of breath
- Hives (raised red/white spots)
- Difficulty swallowing
- You may be experiencing a contrast reaction. Your physician needs to be notified if you experience a reaction and will decide the appropriate care needed for you.

Revised March 2011