

**ABOUT RHODE ISLAND  
MEDICAL IMAGING:**

Rhode Island Medical Imaging (RIMI) has a network of 12 private state-of-the-art medical diagnostic imaging facilities that are staffed by over 80 board certified radiologists with broad-based experience and subspecialty training. RIMI is accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR) including being the first and only Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence in Rhode Island. RIMI is also an ACR Breast Imaging Center of Excellence with its newest comprehensive centers in Johnston and East Greenwich.

RIMI radiologists perform and interpret imaging in Rhode Island at Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Miriam Hospital, Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital, Roger Williams Medical Center and Women & Infants Hospital, as well as at Sturdy Memorial Hospital in Attleboro, Mass. Most of RIMI’s radiologists are also faculty members at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University.

For over 75 years RIMI has provided Rhode Island with world class care driving innovation, research and educational excellence.



**MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

To make an appointment for a CT Cardiac Calcium Scoring test please call Rhode Island Medical Imaging at **401.432.2400**.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**SERVICES PERFORMED AT THESE  
RIMI LOCATIONS:**

**JOHNSTON**

1526 Atwood Avenue  
Lower Level  
Johnston, RI 02919

**CRANSTON**

1301 Reservoir Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02920



[www.rimirad.com](http://www.rimirad.com)



3-2021

# CT Cardiac Calcium Scoring



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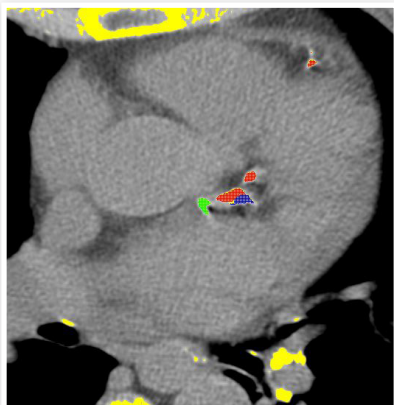
### WHAT IS CARDIAC CALCIUM SCORING?

Cardiac Calcium Scoring detects the build up of plaque in blood vessels. Plaque, an accumulation of fat, calcium and other substances, can build up over time and cause a narrowing or blockage of the arteries. This build up causes heart disease and can even cause a heart attack.

The non-invasive Cardiac Calcium Scoring test is done using a CT (Computed Tomography) scan. It looks at the heart and evaluates a patient's risk for developing coronary artery disease (CAD) by measuring the amount of plaque in the coronary arteries.

A Cardiac Calcium Scoring exam is often a better indicator of coronary events than a cholesterol screening or other tests.

The Cardiac Calcium Scoring exam is also sometimes called coronary artery calcium (CAC) scoring, a heart scan or a calcium score.



Cardiac Calcium Scoring CT image of the coronary arteries with plaque

### WHO DOES THE TEST?

A Rhode Island Medical Imaging (RIMI) CT technologist will perform the exam. A RIMI radiologist with subspecialty fellowship training in Thoracic and Cardiac Imaging will read and evaluate the test's results.

### THE TEST

After changing into a gown, a RIMI technologist will explain the CT scan procedure to the patient. Lying face up on the CT table the patient will have a few EKG electrodes placed on their chest to monitor heart rate. The exam is performed without IV contrast. The CT table will move slowly and images will be taken. Patients may be asked to hold their breath at times and to lie as still as possible. Even though the technologist will be in an adjacent room, they will be able to see you through a window and speak with you as well. The entire test typically takes less than 10-15 minutes.

### THE SCORE

Your calcium score directly corresponds to your likelihood of having heart disease or a heart attack. The lower your calcium score and percentile rank, the less likely you are to experience a cardiac event.

The calcium score itself, also known as an Agatston score, is based on the amount of plaque found via the CT scan. This number is then turned into a percentage ranking based on a patient's age and gender.

### WHAT THE NUMBERS MEAN

The Cardiac Calcium Scoring test helps inform your physician what preventative or corrective actions are advised based on the results.

New guidelines suggest that if your calcium score is zero, treatment with statin therapy may be withheld or delayed, except those with specific risk factors such as smoking, diabetes or strong family history. Talk to your doctor for more information.

Score	Plaque Status	Risk Factors
0	No plaque	Low heart attack risk
0-10	Slight amount of plaque	Less than a 10 percent chance of heart disease
11-100	Small amount of plaque	Mild heart disease is present and a moderate chance of a heart attack exists. Lifestyle changes recommended.
101-400	Moderate amount of plaque	Heart disease is present. Plaque may be blocking an artery. Moderate to high risk of heart attack. Additional tests and treatment may be necessary.
401+	Large amount of plaque	Heart disease is present. Over a 90 percent chance of a blocked artery. High risk of heart attack. Additional tests and treatment are necessary.