What is a CT coronary angiogram?
This is an investigation using a high resolution CT x-ray scanner to perform a test called a CT coronary angiogram. It shows pictures of the coronary arteries and can assess if you have any signs of disease in them which may be restricting the flow of blood being delivered to your heart muscle. It is important that you tell your doctor if you are a diabetic on the drug metformin, or if you have a medical history of asthma, kidney problems or a pacemaker.

Why would I need this procedure?
To identify a potential cause of your symptoms and to examine the anatomy of your heart.

What are the symptoms that have led to me having this procedure?
You may have been having chest pain and/or shortness of breath.

What are the alternatives?
The standard coronary angiogram is the ‘Gold Standard’ test as it can show narrowings in even the very small arteries. It is however more invasive and may not be necessary at this stage (see separate information sheet).

What are the potential risks and side effects?
Having a CT coronary angiogram does mean that you are exposed to some radiation. Every day we are exposed to small amounts of radiation which occurs naturally in the environment. Women who are pregnant will be advised to avoid radiation where possible, but if the mother’s health is at serious risk she may be advised to have a test involving radiation, because the unborn baby depends on her health for survival.

The amounts of radiation used in most medical tests are quite small, so if you have been told that it is likely that you have heart disease and you need, for example, a coronary angiogram, the risks involved in not having the test may well be far greater than the risks from radiation.

Overall, a CT coronary angiogram is less invasive than a standard coronary angiogram and therefore carries less risk.

What are the expected benefits of treatment?
If the CT coronary angiogram finds evidence of coronary artery disease it will be possible to recommend treatment which may help to help reduce your risk of future heart problems.

What should I do before I come into hospital?
On the day of your procedure you should avoid caffeine, smoking and anything else that can speed up your heart rate.

Where will the procedure take place?
This investigation will be performed at Eastbourne District General Hospital, CT department, Tel: 01323 417400.
What happens during the test?
You will have a drug called a beta-blocker administered to slow your heart rate down prior to the scan, this will initially be given to you in tablet form but you may also require to have a further dose via a tube (cannula) inserted in your arm. Its effects are short acting.

For the test, you lie on a bed under a scanner. Some dye (called a contrast medium) will be injected into your arm to help to show up the blood vessels on the surface of the heart and then the images are taken.

How will I feel afterwards?
This depends on how you respond to the rate-lowering drugs but most people feel no ill effects.

How long will I be in hospital?
Expect to be in the CT department for between 2 to 4 hours.

What should I do when I go home?
Ideally you should arrange not to drive home in case you are required to have intravenous beta blockers. You may feel tired and should avoid strenuous activity for the rest of the day.

Consent
Although you consent for this treatment, you may at any time after that withdraw such consent. Please discuss this with your medical team.

Important information
The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments
We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) – details below.

Hand hygiene
The trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats
This information is available in alternative formats such as large print or electronically on request. Interpreters can also be booked. Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) offices, found in the main reception areas:

Conquest Hospital
Email: esh-tr.palsh@nhs.net - Telephone: 01424 758090

Eastbourne District General Hospital
Email: esh-tr.palse@nhs.net - Telephone: 01323 435886
After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

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Reference
Written by: Sally Mason, Rapid Access Chest Pain Nurse Specialist.

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:
Dr Andrew Marshall, Consultant Cardiologist (at least one from each site if appropriate)

The directorate group that have agreed this patient information leaflet:
Cardiovascular Medicine

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Responsible clinician/author: Sally Mason, Rapid Access Chest Pain Nurse Specialist

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