

STEELE MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

P.O. BOX 700 ~ SALMON, IDAHO 83467 ~ (208)756-5600 ~ FAX (208) 756-4169

Press Release

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Steele Memorial Medical Center Offers New Screening Test

Steele Memorial Medical Center has recently purchased a new 64 slice 'Lightspeed VCT™' CAT Scanner. This new machine allows our Medical Imaging Department to now offer a new screening test for the early detection of heart disease called a Cardiac Calcium Scoring Test. As of 2006, approximately 11% or 24.1 million Americans had been diagnosed with some level of heart disease, according to the national Center for Health Statistics. Heart disease remains the number one cause of death in the U.S. For this very reason, early detection is critical to the prevention of both heart attacks and strokes.

The Cardiac Calcium Scoring Test offers consumers a new non-invasive method for earlier detection. Approximately 20-30 thinly sliced pictures are taken of your heart and recreated into an amazing 3-dimensional image. The amount of calcium present is then scored into one of five levels. If you have a high cardiac calcium score, you may need more tests to determine if you have coronary artery disease (CAD) or to find out how severe it is, especially if you have other risk factors for CAD. For example, a Cardiac Calcium Score of a level 4 would indicate that a moderate amount of calcium is present in your arteries, and that you may have a moderate to high risk of heart attack. At this level, your physician would likely initiate further treatment or testing after carefully reviewing your health history and records.

The test takes 20 -30 seconds, while approximately 200 pictures of your heart are taken. No preparation is required for the test, and you will experience no pain or other sensations during the test. A Cardiac Calcium Scoring Test is recommended for men 45 years and older and women 55 years or older, and for younger individuals who have a strong history of cardiac disease in their family.

A Cardiac Calcium Scoring test can offer you both early detection and the peace of mind that comes from knowing your level of heart health. Steele Memorial Medical Center is now offering this screening procedure on Wednesday afternoons for a cost of \$75.00. This is a cash procedure, and payment arrangements need to be made prior to the service. Please call the Medical Imaging Department at 208-756-5641 today to schedule your Cardiac Calcium Scoring Test. If you have any other questions about our services, please visit us at www.steelemh.org.