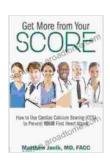
## Protect Your Heart: How Cardiac Calcium Scoring Can Prevent Your First Heart Attack

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death worldwide, with heart attacks claiming countless lives every year. However, there is now a groundbreaking method that can help you assess your risk of a heart attack and take proactive steps to prevent it: Cardiac Calcium Scoring (CCS).



## Get More from Your Score: How to Prevent YOUR First Heart Attack Using Cardiac Calcium Scoring (CCS)

by Matthew Janik

Lending

★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 4874 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting: Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 101 pages



: Enabled

This article will delve into the world of CCS, explaining what it is, how it works, and why it has become an essential tool for heart health. By understanding CCS, you can empower yourself with the knowledge and tools to protect your heart and prevent the devastating consequences of a heart attack.

#### What is Cardiac Calcium Scoring?

Cardiac Calcium Scoring is a non-invasive imaging test that measures the amount of calcium buildup in your coronary arteries. Calcium is a natural part of the body, but when it accumulates in the arteries, it can lead to plaque formation and hardening of the arteries, increasing your risk of a heart attack.

CCS uses a specialized CT (computed tomography) scanner to create detailed images of your heart. The scanner detects calcium deposits in your coronary arteries and calculates a calcium score based on the amount and location of the calcium.

#### **How Does it Work?**

During a CCS procedure, you will lie on a table that moves through the CT scanner. The scanner rotates around you, taking multiple X-ray images of your heart. These images are then processed by a computer to create a 3D model of your heart and calculate your calcium score.

The calcium score is a number that represents the amount of calcium buildup in your coronary arteries. The higher the calcium score, the greater your risk of heart disease and heart attack.

#### Why is Cardiac Calcium Scoring Important?

CCS is an important tool for heart health because it provides valuable information about your heart attack risk. Traditional risk assessment methods, such as cholesterol levels and blood pressure, only give a partial picture of your heart health. CCS, on the other hand, directly measures the amount of calcium in your arteries, which is a major predictor of future heart attacks.

By knowing your calcium score, you can:

- Assess your risk of a heart attack
- Identify the need for lifestyle changes or medical treatment
- Monitor the effectiveness of heart disease prevention strategies
- Make informed decisions about your heart health

#### Who Should Get a Cardiac Calcium Score?

CCS is recommended for people who are at moderate to high risk of heart disease. This includes people who have:

- High cholesterol
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- A family history of heart disease
- Smokers
- People over the age of 50

#### **Benefits of Cardiac Calcium Scoring**

CCS offers several benefits for heart health:

Early Detection: CCS can detect heart disease early, even before symptoms appear.

- Improved Risk Assessment: CCS provides a more accurate assessment of your heart attack risk than traditional risk factors.
- Personalized Treatment Plans: Your calcium score can help your doctor develop a personalized treatment plan to prevent or manage heart disease.
- Peace of Mind: Knowing your calcium score can give you peace of mind about your heart health.

#### How to Get a Cardiac Calcium Score

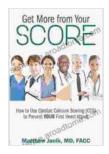
CCS is available at most hospitals and imaging centers. You can talk to your doctor to see if CCS is right for you. The procedure usually takes about 15 minutes and is painless.

Before the procedure, you will be asked to remove all jewelry and clothing that may contain metal. You will also be asked to avoid eating or drinking for several hours before the scan.

Cardiac Calcium Scoring is a revolutionary tool for heart health that can help you prevent your first heart attack. By measuring the amount of calcium in your coronary arteries, CCS provides a more accurate assessment of your heart attack risk than traditional risk factors.

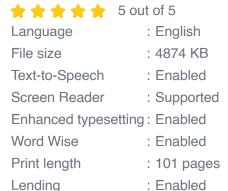
If you are at moderate to high risk of heart disease, talk to your doctor about getting a Cardiac Calcium Score. This simple and painless test can give you valuable information about your heart health and empower you to take proactive steps to protect your heart.

Remember, prevention is always better than cure. By knowing your calcium score and taking steps to reduce your risk, you can significantly increase your chances of living a long and healthy life.

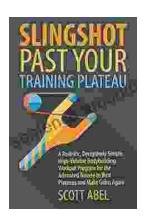


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