

Multi-slice Cardiac CT Scans Speed Emergency Room's Ability to Diagnose Chest Pain

By Mason Weiss, M.D., F.A.C.C.

When you go to the emergency room with chest pain, you would like to believe that the science of medicine can pinpoint immediately whether you're having a heart attack both quickly and accurately. Unfortunately, up until now, that has not always been the case.

A new study, reported in the February 27, 2007, issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology describes the use of multi-slice CT scanning of the heart to evaluate patients with chest pain in the emergency room. Researchers from William Beaumont Hospital in Michigan found that this simple outpatient scan can rapidly and accurately determine which patients with chest pain have normal coronary arteries and can go home directly from the emergency room as well as those who have diseased arteries requiring admission to the hospital for further care. This translates into rapid diagnosis and earlier treatment not to mention significant cost savings. The standard diagnostic workup of chest pain (which consists of EKGs, blood tests, and stress nuclear testing) fared equally well in diagnostic accuracy but took much longer in time to complete and was more costly than the high-tech CT scans.

Knowing that when you're sent home with a clean bill of health from the emergency room after one of these 30 minute scans is the best peace of mind an anxious patient with chest pain can have.

APEX Cardiology is a nationally recognized leader in providing a full range of cardiology services including the 64-slice CT Scanner. Apex cardiologists are dedicated to utilizing the most advanced technology benefiting both patients and referring physicians. Patients experience more comfort and reduced scan times. Referring physicians receive clinical results that reflect the highest, most accurate images possible with a non-invasive test.

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REAL ESTATE

Time To Buy

by Judith Wilson

Finally the decision has been made, it's time to buy and stop waiting for prices to come down because it doesn't look like it's going to happen and all the really plum choices are disappearing. There are many steps and a lot of time and money involved so let's take some time to prepare for what your budget needs to be ready for.

First Things First

Some things, not to do, before or while you are qualifying for a lender:

- 1.) Do not change jobs unless it is a move up with higher pay .
- 2.) Do not switch Banks or move your money around.
- 3.) Do not pay off bills. Some are necessary to prove your responsibility in paying for a purchase as promised. The mortgage lender or your Buyers Agent will advise you if you need to organize your credit accounts.
- 4.) Do not make any major purchases, especially, a car or electronic equipment without realizing that this large monthly payment may make a lender think that you have over extended yourself.

Your credit standing is KEY! Your Interest rate depends on it.

Historically, mortgage interest rates have varied by loan to value and by term only. On "A" borrower mortgages, variation in credit risks were not generally taken into consideration. Any variation in interest rates was primarily due to the additional charge for mortgage insurance on home loans with loan to values greater than 80% ,or higher rates due to the length of amortization (30 years vs. 15 years)

The exception to this trend is Sub Prime lenders are lenders who specialize in providing loans to traditional financing due to credit impairment or difficulty to verify income. These lenders have used "risk-based" pricing for years. The greater the risk, the higher the interest rate. A leading credit indicator used by lenders to determine risk based pricing is the FICO (Fair Isaac Company) score. Mortgage lenders use FICO scoring to speed up the loan application process by simplifying credit review. FICO scoring is a formula for credit risk assessment that is believed to be highly predictive of future payment risk. The borrowers score is derived by weighing credit information as a snapshot in time and assessing "points" for each piece of information only. FICO scores can fluctuate, however, depending on the credit repository that it is taken from and the geographical location of the borrower, there may be more or less information available, which leads to variation in scoring.



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