

## INTRODUCTION

Many radiological modalities can clearly image the aorta throughout its length including plain films, contrast aortography, CT & MRI.

Costello et al., (1992) reported that dynamic CT scanning is used to assess thoracic aortic lesions. A bolus injection of contrast medium into a peripheral vein followed by multilevel contiguous CT scans with mediastinal windows are obtained during held inspirations. He also added that one of the most exciting aspects of spiral CT is its application to vascular imaging. Spiral CT angiography has been applied successfully to image aortic aneurysms and dissection with ability to show intra-and extraluminal abnormalities, intimal calcifications and mural thrombus.

**Diseases of the thoracic aorta can be classified into three groups:**

- 1- Congenital lesions: e.g right aortic arch, double aortic arch, coarctation of aorta and hypoplastic aorta.
- 2- Arthritic syndromes e.g Takayasu's disease, giant cell aortitis and syphilitic aortitis.
- 3- Thoracic aortic aneurysms. (Armstrong, 1992).