



PATIENT INFORMATION

Radiology Department Information for Inpatients having an Angiogram or an Angioplasty

Patient Details

Name.....

Hospital Number.....

Ward.....

Date/time of planned procedure.....



What is an angiogram?

An Angiogram (or Arteriogram) is a special x-ray examination of the blood vessels supplying your limbs. The doctor who has referred you for this test is looking for the reason why you have pain in your limbs, and may find that it is due to blocked or narrow arteries. You will need to sign a consent form before the procedure is carried out. A Radiologist will explain in more detail all the benefits and risks to you before you sign. Please ask him/her if you have any questions about the procedure.

You will be lying on an x-ray couch and in the room with you will be a Radiologist a Radiographer and 2 nurses

The Radiologist will normally use only local anaesthetic to numb an area in your groin. He will then insert a fine tube into the artery in the groin and inject some contrast medium (dye). This is all done through a small puncture in the skin. The doctor can see the dye on a TV monitor and follow its passage along the blood vessels to indicate where the problems might be. It is normal to feel a hot flush when the dye is injected. This should not be too unpleasant and quickly disappears.

If problems are found, it may be possible to perform an angioplasty. This involves inserting a small balloon through the same puncture and inflating it to open the narrowing in the blood vessel to improve the blood supply.

The balloon is then deflated and removed. Angioplasty occasionally fails to improve symptoms, but the risk of making things worse is very low. This will be discussed with you further when you attend for the procedure.

When the examination is finished a 'plug' may be used at the puncture site to prevent bleeding. If the plug is successful you will need to lie flat for 2 hours. If a plug has not been used or is unsuccessful, you will need a member of staff to press on the puncture site for approximately 10 minutes to prevent bleeding. You will then be taken back to the ward and need to lie flat for 4-6 hours. You must avoid bending the hip during this time. Your blood pressure and puncture site will be checked regularly to ensure there is no bleeding. It is normal to have some bruising in this area.

Preparation

- A Radiology nurse will visit you on the ward for pre-assessment.
- You must have nothing to eat for 2 hours before the procedure, but drinking fluids is allowed.
- Your groin area may be shaved and you will need to put on a hospital gown.
- In some cases we may need to take a blood test before the procedure.
- If you are a diabetic then please let us know or tell a member of nursing staff.