

Southernex



Imaging Group Ltd

September 2003

ANGIOGRAPHY

Patient Information

Your doctor has asked us to perform an angiogram which is an x-ray test to show blood vessels, either arteries or veins.

We would like to make your visit to us as easy and comfortable as possible. We have designed this brochure to help prepare you for your procedure.

What happens before the angiogram?

You will be given instructions regarding the time of your appointment and any necessary preparation.

Please don't eat for 6 hours prior to your appointment but you may have sips of water. Your usual medication should be taken with a small amount of water. Please notify us if you are taking blood thinning tablets aspirin, heparin, Coumadin, Marevan or warfarin tablets; also if you have kidney (renal) impairment or diabetes, or if you have asthma.

Upon admission you will be allocated a bed, and prepared for your procedure which will be performed in the Radiology Department. Your name is placed on a theatre list for your procedure, the earliest time this will be performed is one hour post admission time. This time may vary allowing for complicated procedures and emergencies on the day. You will be changed into a hospital gown. A nurse will shave one or both groins. A tiny needle will be placed into one of your arm veins which allows us to give you intravenous medicine during your test if needed.

What happens during the angiogram?

You will be taken to the angiography room and asked to lie on an x-ray bed which has the angiographic x-ray equipment over it.

If you are anxious, intravenous sedative medicine can be given.

Your groin region will be cleaned with a disinfectant solution then sterile sheets placed over your body so as to avoid infection. The radiologist will inject a little local anaesthetic into your groin which numbs the skin so you don't experience any pain during the procedure. A fine plastic tube called a catheter is then inserted into your artery or vein. You cannot feel the movement of the catheter as there are no nerves inside the arteries or veins.

When the catheter is positioned correctly, x-ray dye (which is a clear liquid like water) will be injected through it. X-ray pictures are taken as the dye travels through the blood vessel. Usually many sets of pictures are taken to fully examine all the blood vessels in the area of interest.

What are the risks?

Diagnostic angiography is a very safe procedure, particularly these days with the sophisticated equipment used. However, all medical procedures carry some risk. The risks include damage to the artery at the site of catheter insertion at the groin, damage to the arteries (or veins) that the catheter travels through, or reaction to the x-ray dye.

What happens after the angiogram?

When the angiogram is complete, the catheter is removed and pressure applied to the site where it was inserted, to prevent swelling

You will be moved back onto your bed and a nurse will check your blood pressure, pulse and catheter site frequently. You will be asked to keep your leg still. You will be given food and drinks during this period. You will need to stay in bed for between 2 to 6 hours. After this time you will be allowed to get dressed.

If your test is being performed as a day-procedure, you will need someone to drive you home after the angiogram and it is best if you take it easy for the first day after the test.

If you don't live in or near Brisbane, you may need to stay in Brisbane overnight, if you are unable to stay with family or friends, our receptionist are happy to help arrange suitable accommodation.

If you experience any bleeding or other problems after the test please phone us on 3371 9588 between 8.00am and 6.00pm or at night on our after hours number 3839 2288.