

Angiogram

An angiogram shows the blood vessels in the body. A tube called a catheter is put into a vein at the top of your leg in your groin or in your arm. Dye is put through the catheter. X-rays are taken to check the blood flow in your body.

An adult family member or friend will need to take you home after the test. It is not safe for you to drive or leave alone. Your family is to wait during the test.

Arrive on time for your test. The test takes about 1-2 hours. Plan to be here about 4 hours to be checked after the test.

To Prepare

- Do not eat food after midnight before the test.
- Ask your doctor if you should take your medicines the day before and the morning of the test. If so, take with sips of water only.
- Tell your doctor if you have allergies to dye or iodine.

During the Test

- You will wear a hospital gown.
- An IV (intravenous) is put into a vein in your arm.
- You lie on a table.
- Small pads are put on your chest to check your heart. For men, chest hair may need to be shaved.
- A blood pressure cuff is put on your arm. Your blood pressure and heart rate are checked often.
- The catheter site, either your groin or your arm, is cleaned. Your groin will be shaved if used.
- The doctor numbs your catheter site. This may sting for a few seconds. After this, you should only feel pressure and no pain.
- The lights may be turned down so the doctor can see the screen.

- The catheter is put in and dye is injected. You may feel hot or flushed for a few seconds.
- X-rays are taken as the dye moves through your blood vessels. You may be asked to hold your breath at times.
- When the test is done, the catheter is removed. Pressure is put on the site for 10-20 minutes so it does not bleed. A stitch or plug may be used to close the catheter site. A clamp is put on for about 1 hour to stop bleeding. A band-aid or dressing is put on the site.
- **Tell the staff if you have any pain during the test.**

After the Test

- You will be taken to another bed. You will rest for about 4 hours.
- Staff will check you often.
- Keep your leg straight to prevent bleeding.
- Tell your nurse **right away** if the site swells or bleeds, or if you feel pain, numbness, or tingling in your leg or arm.
- You can eat and drink.
- It is not safe for you to drive or leave alone. An adult family member or friend will need to take you home.
- Test results are sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share the results with you.

Your Care At Home

Today

- Rest at home.
- Limit stair climbing.
- Drink 8 cups or 2 liters of liquids (non-alcoholic) to flush the dye out of your kidneys.
- Eat your normal diet.
- Remove pressure bandage at bedtime and put on a clean band-aid.
- Keep the site dry. Do not shower or bathe.
- Look at the site for bruising or a lump.

Other Care

- Do not take a tub bath for 1 week after the test. You can take a shower. Do not scrub the site.
- Do not take the medicine Glucophage (metformin) for 2 days after the test.
- Do not drive for 2-3 days.
- Do not exercise, run, or lift objects over 10 pounds or 4.5 kilograms for 3 days after the test.
- Look at the site for bruising or a lump.

Call your doctor **right away** if you have:

- Bleeding at the site that will not stop
- Swelling, redness, more bruising or tenderness at the site.
- Drainage or warmth at the site
- Coldness or paleness of the leg or arm
- Problems moving your toes or fingers
- Sharp pain or stinging at the site
- Fever or chills
- Numbness or weakness
- Confusion or you are less alert

If you have bleeding that will not stop or a lump that gets bigger at the site, **lie flat, hold pressure on the site and call 911.**

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.