



OKLAHOMA
HEART HOSPITAL
PROUDLY PHYSICIAN OWNED

Vascular Catheterization (Angiogram)

Patient and Caregiver Information

Vascular Catheterization (Angiogram)

This guide will help communicate what will happen before, during and after your procedure. It was written to inform you about your procedure and answer the most frequently asked questions.

What is Vascular Catheterization (Angiogram)

An angiogram is a diagnostic test to check the quality of blood flow through the heart, neck, leg, or other vessels. A very thin flexible catheter, or tube, is inserted through a vessel, in the groin area or the wrist. The physician then threads the catheter to the area of study and injects a special dye so an X-ray can “see” the condition of the artery or vein. Stents to the heart and other areas can be placed using this same technology.

Patients are given a mild sedative that keeps them relaxed, but awake. A local anesthetic is also given to numb the area where the catheter is inserted. The procedure takes about 30-60 minutes.

Preparation

You will receive a phone call reminding you of your procedure. Be sure to ask any questions when our staff calls.

What do I do before my procedure?

- You will need to fast (no food or drink) for this procedure, follow the pre-procedure instruction sheet.
- Arrange for a responsible adult to drive you home after the procedure and stay with you for the next 24 hours.
- Refer to the pre-procedure instruction sheet for arrival time and procedure time.
- Shower using antibacterial soap the night before, and the morning of your procedure.

Medications

- It is very important to follow the pre-procedure medication instructions provided by your physician. We will remind you of these during a pre-procedure phone call.
- Please prepare a current list of your medications to bring with you on the day of your procedure.

Day of Procedure

What do I do the day of my procedure?

- Do not apply makeup, lotions, deodorant, or hair products on this day.
- Leave valuables and jewelry at home.
- When you arrive, simply check in at our first floor front desk.
- After registration you will be taken to a room where a nurse will get you ready for the procedure.

During the Procedure

Will I have anesthesia?

During the procedure you will be given medications in your IV that will make you sleepy. This type of anesthesia is called procedural sedation. Unlike deep anesthesia that you may receive during a surgery, this anesthesia will allow you to sleep lightly but still respond to commands, such as take a deep breath or open your eyes. The light sleep will make you more comfortable during your procedure.

What are the side effects of anesthesia?

Procedural sedation may cause poor balance, sleepiness and impaired judgement for up to 24 hours. Sedation may also cause you to have a headache or feel nauseated for several hours after the procedure. It is normal to not remember things that happen during or immediately after the time you received procedural sedation. Friend or family assistance is recommended at home for 24 hours.

After the Procedure

What to expect after the procedure:

- Following the procedure, the tube will be removed and pressure will be placed on the area for 10–20 minutes. Afterwards, you will be asked to lie flat and still for a period of time determined by the physician.
- Your nurse will keep you informed and let you know when it is safe to sit up, drink, eat, as well as when to expect your bedrest to end.
- Diagnostic procedures usually go home in 1-2 hours. Other procedures will stay for several hours or overnight.
- Your nurse will provide you with written discharge instructions, and answer all your questions before sending you home.

If you experience:

- **Pain** - At home you may experience mild discomfort at the puncture site. This is usually managed with over the counter pain relievers.
- **Unexpected Bleeding** - Observe puncture site for signs of bleeding. If bleeding occurs, hold pressure to site and call 911.
- **Nausea & Vomiting** - Begin with sips of clear liquids in small amounts. Once you tolerate clear liquids, you should slowly add in other bland, low fat food choices, gradually increasing to your normal diet.
- **Signs of Infection** - Call your physician if you have fever over 101 degrees, increased redness, swelling, or heat at the incision site.