

Angiography (Angiogram, Arteriogram)

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How you want to be treated.

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General Information

An Angiogram or Arteriogram is an x-ray examination of your blood vessels. Specific vessels in the head, neck, chest, abdomen, arms and legs can be studied by putting a small synthetic tube, called a catheter, in the appropriate artery. A clear solution, referred to as a contrast medium or "dye" is injected through the catheter into the appropriate vessel while x-ray pictures are obtained.

Procedure

You will be asked to lie on your back on a padded x-ray table. A small area of the groin will be shaved, cleaned and draped with sterile sheets prior to local anaesthetic being injected into the skin and tissue adjacent to the artery. A needle is initially passed into the femoral artery. The catheter is then inserted into the artery and positioned in the appropriate vessel to be studied (under television monitoring).

X-ray films are then obtained at the same time injection of contrast, thus mapping the circulation to that area of the body. During this injection, you will experience a sensation of heat or warmth in that part of the body supplied by the artery. More than one injection to a vessel is sometimes necessary. Between injections, the catheter is flushed repeatedly with a saline solution. The contrast medium is filtered through the kidneys and passes in the urine in 12-24 hours.

Once the examination is completed, you will be transferred to a stretcher and the catheter removed. Pressure is applied to the puncture site for at least 10-15 minutes, to prevent bleeding. To minimize the chances of swelling or developing a bruise around the puncture site, you will be asked to remain in a hospital bed for 4-6 hours following the examination and not to sit up or bend the leg that was used for the study.

Duration

The average length of a procedure is 1-2 hours.

Preparation

Do not eat food six hours prior to the procedure. You can have clear fluid up to two hours before the procedure.

Your consent will be obtained by the radiologist prior to performing the procedure. Any further questions will be answered by the radiologist at that time. We will keep you informed as to what is happening during the procedure and also let you know what to expect. You may ask any questions during the procedure.