

About Your Arteriogram (Angiogram)



What should I know about this test?

An arteriogram is also called an angiogram. An arteriogram is an x-ray test of your blood vessels. You will not be ‘put to sleep’ (under anesthesia) for this test.

An arteriogram is done to look for:

- Blocked blood vessels.
- Blood vessels that are not normal. This could be:
 - Blood vessels that are narrow because of cholesterol build up.
 - Aneurysms, which are weak, ballooned-out places in the walls of the blood vessel.

How should I get ready for the arteriogram?

If you are a patient staying in the hospital, your appointment will be made for you.

If you are a clinic patient, when you make the appointment for your test tell the clerk if :

- You have diabetes.
- You are allergic to any food or medicine. For some allergies (such as fish), your health care provider may have you take medicine the day before to keep you from having a reaction to the dye.
- You are allergic to x-ray (contrast) dye.
- You have asthma or had it when you were a child.
- You are pregnant or you might be pregnant.
- You are taking Coumadin (Warfarin) or Plavix.

The night before the test: Do not eat or drink anything after midnight.

On the morning of your test: Do not drive. Have someone bring you and take you home.

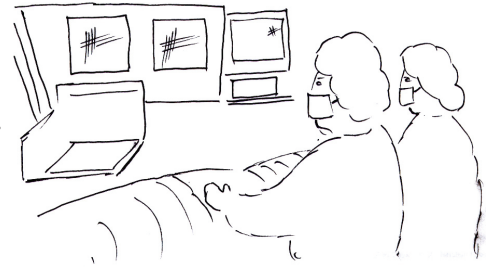
- Bring **all** the medicines you need to take with you. If you have diabetes, do **not** take your insulin before the test. You can take your medicines when the test is over.
- Come to the Radiology Department on the Ground Floor at 7 o'clock in the morning. Bring a photo ID and have your medical record number with you.

What will happen during the test?

- The radiologist will tell you about the test and any risks. You will need to sign a consent, which says you agree to have the test.

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- You will change into a hospital gown, and lie on the x-ray table.
- A nurse will start an IV in a vein on your arm. The nurse will also check your blood pressure and heart beat all during the test.
- The technologist will shave the upper part of your leg and wash it with iodine soap. You will be covered with a sterile (no germs) sheet. You must keep your arms at your side under the sheet all the time so that germs do not get on the sheet.
- The doctor will numb the skin where the catheter (thin tube) is going to be put into your upper leg. The catheter will be moved up into the blood vessels that your doctor wants to see.
- Then the contrast dye will be put in. You may have a feeling of heat as the dye moves into your body.
- The technologist will take X-ray pictures of your blood vessels. You need to stay very still and not move while the dye is going in and the pictures are being taken.



What happens after the test?

- The catheter (thin tube) will be taken out of your upper leg. There will be a weight pressing down on the place to keep you from bleeding.
- The nurse will keep checking your blood pressure, the place where the catheter was taken out, and the blood flow to your feet.
- You must lie flat in bed and keep your leg straight for 6 hours after the catheter is taken out.
- You will have lunch brought to you while you are in the X-ray recovery room.

How will I find out the results of my test?



If you are in the hospital, the health care provider who ordered your test will tell you about your test results when they are ready. If you are a clinic patient your health care provider will tell you about your results at your next clinic appointment.

Be sure to keep this important appointment. If you do not have a follow-up clinic appointment, call and schedule one with your health care provider.