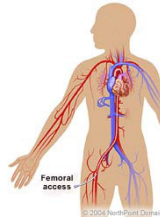


UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER PATIENT EDUCATION

ARTERIOGRAM



Your physician has referred you to the Diagnostic Services Department at United Hospital Center for an Arteriogram.

The purpose of an Arteriogram is to study the condition of the blood vessels in a particular part of the body. This involves insertion of a small tube or catheter into one of several blood vessels. This is usually done through a vessel in the groin area and/or in the arm area.

After arriving in the Diagnostic Services Department, you will be asked to sign a consent form. You will then be placed on a radiographic table on your back. The radiologist will then numb the skin around the vessel area (groin or armpit) using a local anesthetic, so you will feel a little needle stick at this time. After the area is numbed, another needle is placed in the vessel through which the radiologist will insert the catheter. You will not feel this catheter moving in your vessels, because your vessels do not have any nerves. Once the catheter is in place, you will feel a warm sensation when the physician injects the contrast medium (x-ray dye), but that sensation will quickly subside.

After the catheter is removed, you will have a small hole in your artery. Pressure will be applied to that area so there is no bleeding. This is a little uncomfortable but lasts only about fifteen (15) minutes. After the bleeding has stopped, the technologist will put a bandage on the site; no sutures are required.

Upon completion of the exam, you will be returned to your hospital room and there will be some restrictions. You **may not** bend the leg or arm used during the exam. You **must use** a bedpan or urinal. You **may eat** and you are **encouraged to drink** liquids. These **restrictions** are applied for **four (4) to six (6) hours** after the exam.

While an Arteriogram involves relatively minor surgery, it is not completely free from complications. Among the complications which may be encountered are: a bruise may form around the puncture site; damage may occur to blood vessels which require surgery; reaction to the contrast medium. Rare complications arising from Arteriogram have included strokes, kidney failure, and heart attack. Rarer still, there have been reports of loss of life.

Your physician has determined the benefits from the procedure outweigh the risks and would aid in the diagnosis of your medical condition.

Please **DO NOT** eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your scheduled exam. However, you may take your medications with small sips of water, unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

LENGTH: Procedure time approximately 2 hours (Total hospital time 6-8 hours)

If you are pregnant, or think you might be, tell your doctor and the technologist **BEFORE** the exam.

POST ARTERIOGRAM DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

- Take it easy for 24 hours after the procedure. This includes no squatting, stair climbing, walking in the mall, or driving a vehicle for 24 hours.
- Observe needle site for bleeding, swelling, or change in color, and report to your physician if any of the above occur.
- If small amount of bleeding starts at needle site – lie down, elevate the leg or arm, and apply direct pressure to the area. Call Radiology Department at 624-2250 and ask for Radiologist on-call immediately.
- Look and feel the leg or arm for numbness, increased coolness, or decreased feeling; if these changes occur, you need to go to the emergency Department immediately.
- Keep follow-up appointment with physician.

DISCLAIMER: The content contained in this patient education is presented solely with the intent of providing public service information on health and health-related issues. This information is neither intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Always consult your physician or other qualified health provider prior to utilizing any of the information presented in this patient education. UHC makes no warranty, representation or guaranty as to the content, accuracy, timeliness or completeness of the information presented in this patient education or that the information may be relied upon for any reason.

Revised: October 2009