

UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER

PATIENT EDUCATION

INFERIOR VENA CAVAGRAM



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

The purpose of an Inferior Vena Cavagram is to study the condition of the Inferior Vena Cava which is a blood vessel in 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.

If you are currently not a patient in the hospital, you will be asked to **report** to the hospital registration department **two (2) hours prior** to your scheduled exam. After registration, you will be escorted to a hospital room where you will be prepared for the exam. an Intravenous (IV) line may be inserted into a vein in your arm.

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 physician will then numb the skin around the vessel area (usually the groin area) using a local anesthetic so, at this time, you will feel a little needle stick. After the area is numbed, another needle is placed in the vessel through which the physician will insert the catheter. You will not feel this catheter moving in your vessels because your vessels have no 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 vein. Pressure will be applied to that area so there is no bleeding. This is a little uncomfortable, but lasts only a few minutes. After the bleeding has stopped, a bandage on the site; sutures are sometimes 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 used during the exam. You **MUST** use a bedpan or urinal. You **MAY** eat and you will be encouraged to drink liquids, unless directed by your physician. These restrictions are applied for four to six hours after the exam.

While an Inferior Vena Cavagram 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; and/or reaction to the contrast medium. Rare complications arising from Inferior Vena Cavagrams have included 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 4-5 hours)

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

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.

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