

You have been referred for Angiography which is a standard x-ray procedure designed to obtain pictures of your arteries. For the arteries to show up on x-ray it is necessary to inject a contrast agent into the artery.

This will be performed in the Canberra Imaging Group Angiography and Interventional Suite at Calvary John James Hospital.

X-Ray · Ultrasound · MRI · Biopsy · Angiography · CT
Mammography · Bone Mineral Densitometry · Dental X-Rays
Consultations · Interventional Radiology · Nuclear Medicine

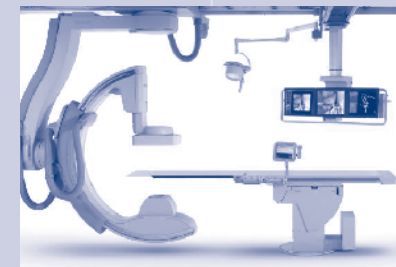
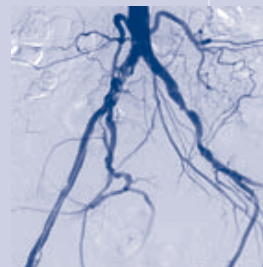
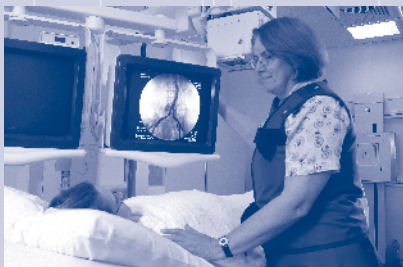
Belconnen Lakeview Square
Bruce Calvary Clinic
Deakin Calvary John James Hospital
Erindale Valley Diagnostic Centre
Garran Brindabella Specialist Centre
Goulburn X-Ray Bourke Street
Queanbeyan Morisset House
Turner Construction House

Patient Booking Service 1300 788 508
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Angiogram

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The Angiogram

The procedure will take about 30 minutes and during this time you will be asked to lie flat on your back.

A specialist x-ray doctor (Radiologist) will perform your angiogram, who will be assisted by a Registered Nurse and a Radiographer.

Your angiogram involves the use of a local anaesthetic and you will be awake during the procedure. A needle puncture is made into the artery in the groin and a catheter (hollow flexible plastic tube) is inserted into the blood vessel and manipulated using a flexible wire guide. A fluid which contains iodine (also known as 'dye' or 'contrast') is injected into the bloodstream which makes the vessels become visible with x-rays. A series of x-rays are taken, to produce a map of your blood vessels. While the contrast is injected and the images are being taken, you will have to lie still and are sometimes asked to hold your breath. As the contrast is injected you may get a hot sensation in that area or a metallic taste in your mouth, this is a normal reaction and there is no need to worry. A blood pressure monitor and a finger oxygen monitor will be used throughout the procedure. This is routine for all patients.

Please bring any relevant films and your referral to your appointment.

Risks

Significant complications from angiography are rare. A small number of patients experience some nausea and vomiting, which usually passes quickly.

Occasionally a patient may experience a drop in blood pressure during the procedure, nursing staff will be close by to care for you if this happens, and it is usually remedied by giving you 'extra fluid' and/or sometimes a drip.

If you have impaired kidney function, this may be worsened by the injection of the contrast or in extreme cases induce renal failure requiring treatment.

Allergic reactions to iodine based contrast are no more common than for other drugs. The most common allergy symptoms are mild, sneezing, rash and/or hives.

Sometimes but very rarely, the procedure can cause the artery to occlude or 'block off'. This can be caused by damage to the arterial wall or dislodgement of 'plaque' which has built up inside the artery.

Medications

You should keep taking your normal medications except 'fluid' tablets and blood thinning tablets.

If you are on anti-coagulant therapy such as **Warfarin**, you must ring us at least one week before your angiogram to discuss stopping the warfarin. This medication is usually stopped 6 days before the procedure. You may be required to have a blood test (INR) to check your blood is not too thin. The angiogram may have to be cancelled if you continue to take warfarin before the procedure.

Plavix or **Clopidogrel** is usually stopped 24 hours before the procedure.

Medications containing **Aspirin** such as **Cardiprin** or **Astrix** should not be taken for 5 days before the angiogram.

You must check with your doctor before stopping any medication.

These medications increase the risk of bleeding after the angiogram. If you are an insulin dependent diabetic or you are taking **Metformin** for diabetes, please notify us immediately. **Metformin** medication must not be taken on the day of your procedure and should be discontinued for 48 hours after the contrast injection. A follow up kidney function test should be done following the contrast injection, this can be done by a simple blood test.

Please bring any medications which you are likely to need during your stay with you.

Fasting

Fast from solid food 4 hours before your appointment time, but we encourage you to drink plenty of fluid up until 1.5 hours before the procedure. This helps your kidneys to excrete the contrast from the body more efficiently.

After your Angiogram

You have had a procedure that required puncture of the main artery in the groin. It is possible that a bruise will develop in the 24 hours immediately following. Rarely the bruise is big, however this may happen if you are on blood thinning medication. Should you experience sudden groin pain, swelling or bleeding you should seek medical advice, either by calling the angiography suite, or, out of hours, contact the Canberra Hospital Accident and Emergency department on (02) 6244 2222. Restricting movement of the leg to walking only is important in the first 36 hours after the procedure.

You will need to stay with us for a few hours after your procedure to make sure there is no bleeding at the puncture site.

You **MUST** have someone else drive you home at the end of this observation time and be able to rest until the following morning. It is recommended that someone else be available during this time should you require any assistance.

If you live a long way out of town it is recommended that you stay overnight in Canberra.

Canberra Imaging Group strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your radiology report with you.