

You have been referred for Angioplasty which is a standard interventional x-ray procedure designed to treat narrowed or blocked arteries.

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
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Belconnen Lakeview Square
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Erindale Valley Diagnostic Centre
Garran Brindabella Specialist Centre
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Queanbeyan Morisset House
Turner Construction House

Patient Booking Service 1300 788 508
Administration Enquiries 6203 2222

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Angioplasty (Balloon/Stenting)

Angioplasty

The Angioplasty

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 angioplasty, who will be assisted by a Registered Nurse and a Radiographer.

Angioplasty (Balloon/Stenting)

An angioplasty is similar to an angiogram. The local anaesthetic is used just as for the angiogram, then a plastic tube called a sheath is inserted into the artery, this has a valve on the end and is used for inserting other catheters and soft wires. The area of the blood vessel that is narrowed is identified and then a special catheter with a balloon at the tip is inflated over the area, this squashes the plaque against the blood vessel wall and by doing this makes the narrowed area wider again, allowing a better flow of blood down the artery. Sometimes a metal stent will be inserted permanently to help keep the vessel open (this is only usually done in the very large vessels with a high blood flow).

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

Risks

Significant complications from angioplasty 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 care for you if this happens.

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 Angioplasty

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.