

## Angiogram with angioplasty or stenting

### What is an angiogram?

It is a minimally invasive procedure where a needle is inserted into the artery under local analgesia, followed by wires and sheath. Xray and contrast is used to image the arteries.

The dye will identify any narrowing or blockage in the vessels. Subsequently, a balloon or stent might be inserted to maintain the artery open.

### Prior to the procedure:

- Avoid eating or drinking anything at least 6 hours prior to your scheduled procedure
- Take your regular medications unless told otherwise
- If are on Aspirin, Plavix, warfarin or any anticoagulant, please notify your doctor
- If you had previous allergy to contrast medium, to Iodine or to seafood, please notify your doctor

### During the procedure:

- The puncture site will be prepared with disinfectant and covered with sterile drapes.
- Local analgesic will be infiltrated into the skin.
- Ultrasound scan might be used to guide the needle entry site
- A small plastic sheath will be introduced.
- Contrast injection will follow. You might experience a warm, flushed feeling or metallic taste
- You will need to stay still and hold your breath when asked to do so.



- Pain can be experienced during balloon or stent insertion but usually only for very short period



Following the completion of the procedure, pressure will be applied to the puncture site for about 10 minutes or shorter if a closure device is used.

#### **Following the procedure:**

- You will be asked to remain laying flat for 3-4 hours
- Gentle mobilization afterwards
- You might be able to be discharged the same day
- You might require to stay overnight if asked to do so for your safety

## Risks and complications

### General risks:

- Heart attack
- Stroke
- Death
- Infection
- Radiation exposure
- Nerve damage
- Heparin related complications like drop in platelets count or bleeding.

### Risks to the puncture site:

- Pain
- Bruising
- Bleeding
- Leak from the artery that would later require injection to stop the blood flow outside the artery

### Risks to the punctured vessel:

- Blockage or dissection requiring further surgery
- Bleeding that might require return to theatre
- Passage of blood clots or cholesterol particles into the downstream arteries causing blockage and rarely death of the organ

### Contrast related risks:

- Allergic reaction causing hives, sweating, coughing, facial swelling, vomiting or shortness of breath and rarely anaphylaxis
- Kidney toxicity rarely requiring dialysis

### Risks of sedation:

- Dizziness
- Blood pressure drop
- Nausea and vomiting

- Breathing difficulties
- Stroke

**Safety precautions:**

- No driving or biking for 72 hours
- No contact sport or severe exercise for 1 week
- Make sure that someone is with at home for the first 48 hours
- Take all your regular medications unless asked otherwise

**Warning symptoms:**

- Cold or cool pale limb
- Excessive pain
- Bleeding or swelling at the puncture site
- Redness
- Fever
- Unwell

If you develop any of those symptoms, please call the above number, Call the duty manager of the hospital where you had the procedure, present to the emergency department or see your GP.

For further information, please visit my website [www.AdvancedVascular.com.au](http://www.AdvancedVascular.com.au)