

MORRIS
Cardiovascular and Risk Reduction Center
Cardiac Catheterization & Angiogram

A *cardiac catheterization* is an invasive procedure that allows the cardiologist to get direct information about blood pressures and patterns of blood flow within your heart. This is done by passing thin tubes (catheters) into the circulation and into the heart vasculature. The catheter can pass into the different chambers, arteries and veins in your heart and provides information about your heart condition through blood samples and blood pressures measured through the catheter.

An *angiogram* is an X-ray movie that's taken while special fluid (dye/contrast), that is only visible by X-ray, is injected into a cardiac chamber or major blood vessel. An X-ray movie of the flow of this fluid through the heart is then recorded.

This procedure is held off-site at a local hospital. Your doctor and associated hospital will provide you additional information about your exam, and additionally explain the test's possible risks, which fortunately are rare.

ABOUT YOUR TEST:

Once Your Visit Begins:

Cath lab staff will start an IV infusion and shave and prep the insertion site . You may be given medication to relax. You will be awake but may feel sleepy during the procedure.

During the Cardiac Catheterization:

Once you are on the x-ray table, electrodes will be applied to your chest to monitor your heart during the procedure. The physician will numb insertion site, insert a catheter (plastic tube) into a blood vessel at the insertion site, inject the contrast, and then take a picture of your coronary arteries. You will feel pressure when the tube is inserted, but not pain. If you experience any pain, let your physician know. When the dye is injected, you will feel a warm sensation for a few seconds. A cardiac cath. takes one hour.

After the Procedure:

When the procedure is finished, you will be taken to the recovery room to have the tube removed from your groin. Pressure will be held at the puncture site for 10 -20 minutes to stop any bleeding. A bandage, ice bag and/or sandbag will then be applied to the groin area until you are ready to get out the bed. You will be in bed for two to four hours. You will be offered liquid to drink and will receive food before you go home.

It is important not to move around in your bed to prevent the puncture site from re-bleeding. Once the recovery period is complete and you are stable, the staff will begin helping you get up to walk around. You and your family member/guest will be given discharge instructions regarding care and medications.

Results:

Your physician will give you preliminary finding while you are still in the cath. lab and will speak to your family member/guest about findings, recommendations and plans for when the procedure is over.

Follow-Up Visit:

A follow up visit should have been scheduled for 1 to 3 weeks following your procedure. Please contact the office if you do not know the date and time for this appointment.

Insertion Site Includes one of the Following:

- Groin (upper thigh)
- Neck
- Forearm

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES FOR THE DAY OF YOUR EXAM:

The hospital will contact you will all procedure preparation information.

THE FOLLOWING WEEKS - What you can expect

You may experience some minor bruising or discomfort at the cath site. Please refer to the information received from the hospital for additional information.

Follow up with your doctor regarding all concerns and side effects prior to starting the procedure. If you have uncertainty of side effects, please contact your doctor immediately.