

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOME

- Drink plenty of water to help flush the x-ray dye from your system.
- Observe the puncture site for bleeding, swelling, redness or ooze. Occasionally bruising occurs at the site and may last for up to 21 days.
- Avoid excessive physical activity and lifting heavy objects for at least 48 hours.
- We recommend no driving for 48 hours.
- Normal showering is allowed. Dab dry the puncture site well with a towel when finished.
- No soaking or bathing of the wound is recommended for at least 10 days or until the wound has healed. This includes hot tubs and swimming.
- Please seek medical advice if the puncture site becomes red, warm or tender and has not healed after 21 days.

RISKS OF THE PROCEDURE

Complications can occur during this procedure. The risk can depend on your age, current medical condition and any treatment that you are receiving.

Risks include:

1. *Complications at the groin puncture site*
 - Although local anaesthetic is used, occasionally you may experience pain or discomfort at the catheter insertion site.
 - Bleeding and oozing may occur. This is usually minor but occasionally a large bruise or lump can form. Inform your nurse if this happens.
 - Rarely the femoral artery can be injured affecting blood flow to the leg. This could possibly require surgical or endovascular treatment.

- Infection in the wound. This is rare but if you experience redness, pain or discharge see your doctor.
 - Clot formation in the veins of the leg or pelvis (deep vein thrombosis). This is rare but serious as this clot can break and go into the lungs and be potentially fatal.
2. *Complications related to the x-ray dye*
 - Uncommonly allergies may occur to the dye which can be mild or severe. Very severe reaction is rare and life threatening reaction is very rare (<1:1000,000).
 - The dye can affect the function of the kidneys. This is more likely if there are pre-existing kidney problems or a history of diabetes. The doctor may give you intravenous fluids or medications before your procedure to prevent this.
 3. *Brain artery related complications*
 - Any damage to the blood vessels leading to the brain could potentially cause stroke. The risk of permanent neurological deficit is 0.5%.
 4. *Medication related complication*
 - Medications used for conscious sedation are associated with the risk of aspiration (inhaling food or liquid into the lungs) or respiratory depression.
 5. *Other*
 - Infrequently the procedure may be unsuccessful
 - Any procedure potentially can be associated with unpredictable risks including death

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**NEUROLOGICAL INTERVENTION
AND IMAGING SERVICE OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

PATIENT INFORMATION

FOR

CEREBRAL ANGIOGRAMS

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INTRODUCTION

Your doctor has requested that you have a Cerebral Angiogram. This is a test that examines the arteries and veins of the head, neck and brain. We perform this test to demonstrate or exclude abnormalities of these vessels. An angiogram is the most accurate way of evaluating the vasculature. The results may help suggest possible methods of treatment.

This procedure is not without risk and your specialist has determined that the benefits of this procedure outweigh the small potential risk of complications.

PRE-PROCEDURE

You will be required to fast for 6 hours prior to the procedure.

- If you take Warfarin or other blood thinning agents notify the booking staff as this may require cessation or blood tests prior to the procedure.
- Notify the nurse or doctor:
 - . Of any **Allergies** especially iodine as the contrast medium used could cause a reaction.
 - . Or if you *are or may be pregnant or breastfeeding*.
 - . If you have **Diabetes**. Drugs like Metformin should not be taken on the day of the procedure and for 48 hours after.

A doctor will sign a **CONSENT** form with you either in the pre-admission clinic or on the day of the procedure.

They will discuss with you the details of the procedure and potential complications.

Please take this time to ask questions regarding the procedure and any concerns you may have.

PROCEDURE

A Cerebral Angiogram involves injections of x-ray dye (contrast) via a thin tube (catheter) placed into the artery. The catheter is only as thick as a piece of spaghetti.

This is a complex test which does require some preparation.

Following your admission to hospital (day ward), a nurse will shave both your groins to provide a clean injection site for the catheter. We like to have both groins prepared as, on rare occasions, the study needs to be performed on both sides separately.

You will then be transferred to the angiography suite and placed on the x-ray table.

You will be draped with sterile sheets from chest to feet to prevent infection.

The procedure is performed via the femoral artery in the groin. A tiny local anaesthetic needle will numb the skin of this area. This may sting a little but the area goes numb in a few seconds. A small tube called a sheath will be inserted into the artery in the groin.

A selection of special wires and catheters will then be guided using x-rays to the vessels of interest.

The x-ray dye will be injected into the artery at the same time the pictures are being taken. Occasionally you may experience warmth in the face, a funny taste in the mouth, minor visual change such as flashing lights or an urge to pass urine. This is quite normal and will pass quickly.

The radiographer will ask you to hold your breath and not swallow for a few seconds when the pictures are being taken. This is to prevent blurring of the images.

Several injections of the dye may be necessary to obtain a full series of pictures and the whole procedure takes between 30-60 minutes.

When the study is completed the puncture site may be sealed with a closure device or manual pressure applied over 15-20 minutes.

POST PROCEDURE

Once the catheter is removed from the blood vessel you will need to lie flat; try not to lift your head or the leg that has had the catheter go through. Lifting your head or leg will increase the pressure on the femoral artery in the groin and can lead to the artery bleeding, causing bruising or swelling.

You will need to stay 4 to 6 hours after the procedure for general observation before going home.

It is advised that you do not drive home so please arrange for someone to pick you up and stay with you overnight.