



## Angiogram

Angiography is an x-ray examination of your arteries (blood vessels). Angiography can be used to look at arteries throughout the body. During the angiogram, the physician places a catheter (a small tube) into the vessel and injects contrast (X-ray dye) into the vessel while taking X-rays of the area. The contrast makes the artery visible on the X-rays. The angiogram helps your doctor plan the best treatment for you.

One of the most common reasons patients may need an angiogram is having symptoms which suggest a blockage of an artery. For example, a blocked artery in the leg may cause pain in your leg when you walk. Blocked kidney arteries may cause high blood pressure, and blocked arteries to the brain may cause vision problems and weakness. An angiogram can identify exactly where the artery is blocked, how severe the blockage is, and what is causing the blockage. The two most common causes of blocked arteries are a blood clot in the artery and atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries).

Another common reason to need an angiogram is the presence of an aneurysm in your body. An aneurysm is an area of an artery that has weakened or ballooned out. Although other medical tests, such as physician examination, ultrasound, CAT scan (CT) or magnetic resonance (MRI) can detect an aneurysm, an angiogram may be necessary to see it in detail and to plan treatment.

### **What you need to know:**

Your doctor will give you instructions about taking your medications before your procedure. Generally, you will be asked to take all of your medications the night before and morning of your procedure. Your doctor may have special instructions about your diabetes medications or about any medications that effect blood clotting. Please ask your doctor if you have any questions about which medications to take.

If you are allergic to shellfish, iodine or contrast (x-ray dye), tell your doctor as soon as possible. Your doctor will order you additional medications to take before your procedure. It is very important that your doctor is aware of any of these allergies.



## CARDIOVASCULAR CONSULTANTS

You are not to eat or drink anything except for sips of water with your medication after 12:00 midnight the night before your procedure unless your doctor has instructed you otherwise.

You will come to the hospital the morning of your procedure. A staff member from the Invasive Heart Lab will call you the night before your procedure to tell you what time to report.

On day of your procedure you will report to the Cardiac Same Day Unit which is located on the Lobby level of the Bedford Entrance of Aultman Hospital.

An angiogram usually takes about 2-2 ½ hours from the time the patient leaves the room until they return. However, the procedure may take longer. Do not become alarmed if your family member's procedure takes longer than expected. The patient is then recovered and closely watched for any signs of bleeding. Patients need to plan to be at the hospital for the entire day.

A support person will need to stay with the patient for the night once they are discharged to home.