

Care Gram

Angiogram

Date of Test: _____ **Test Time:** _____

Welcome

Welcome to the Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) Surgical Services Department. Your doctor has requested that you receive an angiogram. An angiogram is a test used to look at your blood vessels. The test is done by either a radiologist or a vascular surgeon. Nurses and radiographers specifically trained in this area will assist the doctor. The doctor and the assistants wear special gowns, gloves and masks to help prevent infection.

How the Test Works

The body area for the test is numbed with a medicine called Lidocaine. You will feel touch and pressure, but it should not be painful. After the area is numb, a needle is placed in your artery. A guide wire is passed through the needle and into the blood vessels to be studied. A small catheter is then placed over the guide wire and the guide wire is removed. Through the small catheter, the contrast agent or “dye” is injected. This dye makes the blood vessels clearer for the X-rays. X-rays are taken as the contrast agent goes through your blood vessels.

Allowing Time

The test usually takes about 1 hour to 1 ½ hour. You will need to stay in the Hospital after your test for 3 to 7 hours to recover.

Preparation

When the test is ordered:

- Ask your doctor if and when you need to stop taking any herbs or medicines such as aspirin, coumadin, lovenox, heparin, plavix, St. John’s Wort, etc.
- Make arrangements for someone to drive you home and stay with you

Day before the test:

- Nothing to eat or drink after midnight

Day of the test:

- Take your medicines with no more than 4 ounces of water unless your doctor tells you differently



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Your Role

1. Relax during the test. It is important to hold still and hold your breath when asked. Remaining still helps create clear images and pictures.
2. Please tell the registered nurse or radiographer if you have a history of kidney disease, or if you take a diabetic medicine by mouth, or take a blood thinning medication.
3. If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, be sure to let your doctor know before the test begins.
4. You may have a family member or friend come with you on the day of the test.

Registering

A couple of days before your scheduled procedure, your doctor's office will set up a time for you to go to the preadmission testing area at the Hospital. At this time, you will have lab tests done and you will be told about the procedure. On the morning of your procedure, you will need to go to the second floor of the John and Mary Alford Pavilion. Please come to this area 2 hours before your scheduled procedure time.

During the Angiogram

You will be asked to remove your clothes and wear a gown. A nurse will start an IV to give you fluid and medication. The nurse will also listen to your heartbeat and lung sounds and ask you questions about your health history, current symptoms and problems.

The nurse or radiographer will then check your femoral artery pulses located in your groin area. This is the most common artery used for the test. If this artery is not able to be used, a blood vessel in your arm may be used. These areas are cleaned and the hair clipped. The radiologist, vascular surgeon, or cardiologist will explain the test, risks, and possible complications. You will need to sign a consent form.

You will be helped onto a special table. Your heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing will be watched.

Then your groin area will be washed with an antibacterial cleanser called Chloraprep. Sterile drapes will be placed to prevent the risk of infection. The lights in the room will go on and off at various times during the test.

A special medication called a contrast agent will be injected through the IV. The injection may make you feel warm and flushed, have a metallic taste in your mouth, and you may feel like you need to urinate. These are normal symptoms caused by the contrast agent, and they will last only 1 or 2 minutes. Please let the radiographer know if you begin to itch, feel short of breath, have problems swallowing, or are uncomfortable.

After the Test

The small plastic catheter is removed from your blood vessel. The staff will apply direct pressure to the puncture site for about 15 minutes or use a sealing agent. This will control the bleeding. You will have to stay in bed for 1 to 7 hours with the affected leg straight. You will need to have someone drive you home from the Hospital. It would be best if they could stay with you through the night. The contrast agent will be eliminated through your urine. It should not discolor your urine or bowel movements.

Finding Out the Results

The radiologist, vascular surgeon, or cardiologist may discuss the findings of your test with you right after the test. They will study your test and give the findings to your doctor. The doctor will talk to you about the results and your options. Your doctor's office will schedule you for any other tests as needed.

Reminder

If you have any questions about your test, please call (740) 348-7247.