

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

Cardiology – Angiography (Also known as Cardiac Catheterisation)

Introduction

This test is used to help with reaching a diagnosis for angina, heart failure and valve disease. It will normally be part of a package of care. An angiogram is performed by a consultant cardiologist and the team.

An angiogram is done by passing a catheter (long tube) into the artery in the wrist or groin and threading it up to the heart. The catheter is passed up to the heart and dye is injected directly into the blood stream of the arteries supplying the heart whilst a special x-ray machine takes images from different positions.

We review patients who have been referred to the service. Your clinician will have told you whether you are to be done as an urgent referral or as a routine referral. Rest assured your care is important to us.

Guidance for Patients

You may have been seen by a clinician from the cardiology department or your care may have been discussed with the team. Your details will be put onto a waiting list and you will be contacted by either the administrator or a specialist nurse. They will arrange for you to come to the hospital for a pre-clerking appointment. This allows the team to gather information about you and your needs so we can safely look after you. In some instances this will include being seen by a consultant. If you have been seen in clinics recently we may be able to do some of this over the phone. You will be swabbed for MRSA (multiple resistant staphylococcus aureus). This is normal hospital procedure. We will also need to ensure you have had recent bloods tests.

When you come to your pre-clerking appointment you may want to bring someone with you. You should also bring your current list of medications/inhalers/injections.

You will be given time to discuss the procedures and the risks and possible outcomes. You can change your mind at any time if you decide to not go ahead, but it is important you tell the administration team as we can then offer the appointment to another patient. Equally if you are unable to make the appointment let us know and we will make another appointment for you. The contact numbers you need are

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If you have chest pains, it is important that if you have GTN spray you take it. Ensure you sit down first or support yourself as you may feel dizzy. Take one to two puffs under the tongue and wait for 5 minutes, if the pains continue and do not ease, take the spray again. If after 10 minutes in total if your pains are continuing you should ring 999 requesting an ambulance and stating that you have chest pains. If during your wait you feel very dizzy. Then lie down and if able to bring raise your legs up. Do not take any more spray. If the symptoms continue then ring 999.

If you are finding your chest pains have very much increased and are being provoked by less and less activity or are coming at rest and making you feel unwell. You should also seek help.

Whilst you wait for angiogram

It is important that you continue to look after yourself.

- Ensure you are taking all the medicines as prescribed.
- If you smoke, book into a smoking cessation service and plan to stop
- If you are able too, do light exercise, but not to the point it makes you feel unwell with your symptoms.

Contact Us

Coronary angiography administration team 02476 865400

Cardiology secretaries 02476 865378

Finding our more information about coronary angiography

The British Heart Foundation website has some useful information. The following links will help.

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/informationsupport/tests/angiogram>