

## BENEFITS & RISKS

### BENEFITS OF ANGIOGRAPHY

Angiography procedures can diagnose or treat a variety of conditions that can prevent patients from having invasive surgery. If surgery is still necessary, it can be performed more accurately.

Unlike computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), angiography makes it possible to combine diagnosis and treatment. For example, if an area of severe arterial narrowing is detected, angioplasty can be performed immediately to place a stent in the narrowed section of the artery.

### BENEFITS OF INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY

Interventional Radiology is a particularly beneficial treatment option for patients since the procedures are minimally invasive and performed using small skin incisions and a local anesthesia. If a hospital stay is required it is typically shorter. Recovery time is also much shorter than from surgery.

### RISKS

As with all x-ray procedures, you will be exposed to radiation. We are continually striving to ensure that precautions are taken to minimize the amount of radiation used to complete the procedure.

There is a slight risk of contrast (dye) leaking into the skin in the area where the IV is placed. This is not serious but may cause some discomfort at the site. There is a slight risk of an allergic reaction to the dye. There is also a slight risk that a blood clot could form around the tip of the catheter.



## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Please advise your doctor and the staff in Diagnostic Imaging if any of the following apply to you:

- there is a possibility of pregnancy
- you have food or drug allergies
- you are taking medications
- you have a history of asthma, heart, or kidney problems
- you have had any allergic reactions to anesthetics or x-ray contrast dyes

### WHO REPORTS THE TEST?

Radiologists are doctors who are specially trained to interpret the results of diagnostic imaging exams.

Your doctor should receive a signed report within 10 business days. You should follow-up with your doctor to discuss the results of your test.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on specific angiography/interventional radiology examinations and procedures please visit:

[www.easternhealth.ca](http://www.easternhealth.ca)

Go to the "Our Services" tab,  
Select "Diagnostic Imaging"

DI-PCS-008 v.2  
July 2016



## ANGIOGRAPHY/ INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY



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## ANGIOGRAPHY

Angiography is a diagnostic procedure that is performed by a radiologist (a specialized doctor) with the assistance of nurses and technologists. Angiography is used to examine the blood vessels for blockages and other conditions by observing the flow of blood in the veins and arteries. A contrast (dye) is injected into the patient to help the doctor better see the blood vessels. Angiograms are performed in many areas including the arms, legs, heart, lungs and brain. These tests help doctors determine if there are blood vessel blockages, weakening of the vessels, internal bleeding and/or damage to the circulatory system caused by illness or injury. In some cases, doctors are able to treat the problem during the angiogram procedure.

### PROCEDURE

Patients lie on the X-ray table. The patient is given a local freezing at the needle site (similar to dental freezing). The radiologist will make a small incision (cut) in the skin. The incision is most commonly made at the site of major blood vessels such as the groin, arm, and neck. A small tube is inserted and dye is injected to make the blood vessels and other internal structures visible on the x-ray. X-rays are used to guide and locate the position of the tube until it reaches the area to be examined.

Patients may experience mild discomfort and a warm sensation with the movement of the tube and injection of the dye. The most common causes of discomfort are the application of the anesthetic and the need to stay still for periods of time while images are being taken. Please let the radiologist, technologist or nurse know if you are uncomfortable.

Angiogram testing can take several hours. A period of rest will be required after the procedure in order to monitor blood clotting and to allow for the anesthetic to wear off. Additional bed rest is usually required when patients return home.

## INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY

Interventional Radiology is a method of treatment that uses X-rays to guide the insertion of tubes, wires, and other instruments into parts of the body such as blood vessels and organs. Interventional radiology is often used instead of surgery in order to enhance the quality of life for patients.



### PREPARATION

Instructions for preparation are specific to the examination you are booked for and will be included in the letter you receive to advise you of your appointment date and time. The doctor who ordered your examination may also give you information about the required preparation. Prior to the examination, patients are asked to remove jewelry and metal objects and to wear a gown.

### PROCEDURE

The procedure for interventional radiology involves making a small incision (cut) into the skin. Small instruments are inserted into the incisions for the treatment of blockages and other conditions. Often the procedure involves a CT scan or X-ray to see the instruments in the body.

### PICC LINE INSERTION

A PICC line is an IV (intravenous) line placed in the vein, usually in the elbow area, using a sterile, or germ-free technique. This intravenous line may be left in the vein for an extended period of time. A nurse is able to access this line via a small port left outside the vein.

This intravenous line may be used to deliver medications or fluids, or for doing blood tests. After the line is positioned, small sutures (stitches) help secure the line in place. A small bandage is used to cover the insertion site.