



Jefferson | Hospital for  
Neuroscience

Department of Neurosurgery

# *Cerebral Angiogram*



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# Cerebral Angiogram

A cerebral angiogram, also called an arteriogram, is a diagnostic study that uses x-ray and dye to visualize the blood vessels in the neck and brain. Angiography is particularly useful for visualizing abnormalities such as narrowed blood vessels, cerebral aneurysm (out pouching of the wall of a blood vessel, and arteriovenous malformation (a group of malformed blood vessels).

Your neurosurgeon, specially trained in interventional radiology, will perform this procedure in the Interventional Neuroradiology (INR) suite. Interventional neuroradiology uses catheters (hollow plastic tubes) to treat problems in blood vessels in the brain and spine. The problem is treated from *inside* the blood vessel, or endovascularly.

The angiogram is usually an outpatient procedure which means that you will be admitted in the morning and discharged later that day.

## Evening Before Your Angiogram

- Do NOT eat or drink after midnight
- You may brush your teeth but do not swallow any water.
- You may take your regular medicine with a small sip of water, unless you were specifically told not to do so



### **Day Of Your Angiogram**

- Arrive at Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience (JHN), 900 Walnut Street, at 6:30 AM.
- Convenient parking is located in the parking garage attached to JHN at 900 Walnut Street. You enter this garage on 9th Street (left-hand side) between Locust & Walnut Streets. Parking is not discounted at this site.
- After parking, take the garage elevator to the 1st floor (this will be the 1st floor of the hospital). Go directly to Admissions (same floor). This is where you sign in.
- After registration, you will be brought to the INR suite in the basement level for your angiogram. If your angiogram is scheduled for sometime later that day you may be escorted to the Day Surgery Unit until it is time for your study.
- Tell your doctor or nurse if you are allergic to iodine, shellfish or contrast dye.
- During your angiogram, your family may go to the Waiting Room which is located on the 6th floor across from the elevators. Your doctor will use the phone in this room to notify your family when your study is done. Your family can also obtain a beeper at the Nurses Station if they need to temporarily leave the waiting area.

### **Immediately Before And During Your Angiogram**

- You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and remove any jewelry, dentures, hair clips, or other metal objects that may block the x-rays.
- You will be positioned on a cushioned x-ray table. A nurse will insert an IV into your arm. The IV line will allow medicine to be given that will help you relax and feel sleepy during the procedure.
- You will be seen by the Anesthesiologist. You will be connected to monitoring devices so your heart rate, blood pressure and breathing can be checked throughout the procedure.

- After cleansing and numbing your groin area, your doctor will insert a tiny tube, called a catheter, into the artery in your groin. The doctor will guide this catheter to the area that is to be studied by watching it on a TV-like monitor. A small amount of special x-ray dye (contrast) will then be injected into the catheter to make the blood vessels visible while the x-ray pictures are being taken. When the dye is being injected, some people report a salty taste in their mouth, feeling a warm sensation on their face, or seeing flashing lights. These sensations are very brief, lasting only a few seconds at most, and are a normal response to the contrast dye.
- You may communicate to your doctor or nurse if you feel anxious or uncomfortable at anytime throughout the procedure and medication will be given to help you relax.
- The angiogram takes about an hour.

### **After Your Angiogram**

- When the study is completed your doctor will remove the catheter from your artery. Pressure will be applied to your leg at the catheter insertion site for about 20–30 minutes to stop any bleeding. A dressing and/or a special sealant material will be applied to the site.
- You will be brought to the recovery area where you will be closely monitored for about an hour. You will then be transferred to the Day Surgery Unit where your family may visit.
- Once the catheter is removed you must lay flat in bed with your leg (the leg where the catheter was inserted) straight for about 6 hours. This allows the small needle hole in the artery to completely seal.
- You should be able to resume your regular diet. You should drink plenty of fluids to help flush the dye from your system.
- At the end of 6 hours you may stand up and walk around. When you feel well enough you may go home.



## **When You Go Home/Discharge Instructions**

- Activities:
  - When you go home, try to take it easy. Rest with your leg on a pillow. Do NOT engage in any strenuous activities. Try not to use the stairs too much. Do NOT lift anything heavier than a newspaper.
  - You can return to your regular activities the next day, unless your doctor tells you otherwise.
  - You should NOT drive for at least 48 hours but you may be a passenger.
- Resume your regular diet and any medications you normally take.
- There will be a clear dressing over your groin area. This can be removed after 24 hours, but keep the area clean and dry.
- It is normal to have some pain in your groin. You may take Tylenol or Tylenol Extra-Strength.
- Some bruising in the groin area at the puncture site is normal. But, if the bruise becomes raised above the skin or the area starts to bleed, go to an emergency room right away.
- Call the office if you develop a fever higher than 101.5° F. or if you notice increased redness or warmth at the incision site.

## **Go To The EMERGENCY ROOM**

### **If You Experience Any Of The Following Problems:**

- Bleeding at the incision site. This may take the form of a “hematoma” or a blood clot accumulating just beneath the skin at, or around, the incision site.
- Changes in vision
- Numbness, tingling or weakness in your face, arm or leg
- Color change in the leg that had the catheter inserted
- Trouble swallowing
- Trouble talking or understanding
- Confusion
- Severe thirst

**PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 215-955-7000 IF YOU  
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR ANGIOGRAM.**





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