



Carolinan Medical Center - NorthEast

Radio logy Services

Aortogram

DEFINITION

A special x-ray study of the blood vessels in your abdomen using contrast material (x-ray dye).

PURPOSE

Your doctor has requested an arteriogram to check the arteries (in your abdomen). The study will show (if any) blockages, narrowed areas, or irregularities.

PREPARATION

- You will be scheduled for an interview the day before the procedure. At that time, you will talk with one of the nurses. The nurse will explain me procedure.
- You will be asked to list allergies (if any).
- Please bring a list of all current medications you may be taking.
- It is very important to tell the nurse if you are taking blood thinners or if you are diabetic.
- Please do not eat any solid food after midnight on the day before your exam. You may have jell-o (without fruit). For breakfast, coffee, tea, clear juices or broth are all okay.

PROCEDURES

- The day of your procedure you will report to Private Referral.
- You will have an IV placed. The IV is for you to receive medication during the exam.
- Labs (blood) will also be drawn if not previously done.
- You will be escorted by wheelchair to Vascular.
- You will be introduced to the Radiologist performing your procedure, he will go over the exam with you again and answer any questions you may have.
- You will be asked to sign a consent form giving permission for the exam.
- Your groin area will be shaved and someone will check the pulses in your groin/feet.
- Your skin will be (prepped) cleaned with a betadine solution (if not allergic). You will then be covered with a sterile drape (germ-free). The doctor and technologist will also be wearing sterile (germ-free) attire for your protection.
- The doctor will inject lidocaine (numbing medicine) into the skin. After the skin is numb, a needle will be placed followed by specialty wire and tubing.
- A catheter (special tubing) will then be placed in the blood vessels of your abdomen.
- A series of pictures of your arteries will be taken.
- The contrast (x-ray dye) may make you feel warm for a few minutes while it is being injected.

- After the radiologist has the necessary information the catheter will be removed and pressure will be applied to close the small hole in the artery.

AFTERWARDS

- You will need to stay in the bed and keep your catheterized leg (the one the doctor used) still for up to 4 hours. You may have your head up slightly.
- You are encouraged to drink plenty of liquids and you may resume your usual diet.

RESULTS

Once the arteriogram is completed the radiologist will study the images and dictate a report. A written report will be sent to your doctor (the one who ordered the arteriogram). Please allow several days for your doctor's office to contact you with the results.