

Information for patients and carers

Why do I need a Coronary Angiogram?



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An angiogram allows the doctors to examine the blood supply to your heart. If the blood supply to the heart is reduced, it can cause you to feel chest pain or make you feel breathless. Sometimes you will have an angiogram as part of the preparation for an operation.

What is a coronary angiogram?

A coronary angiogram is a special type of X-ray that looks at the blood flow through the arteries of the heart.

To do this we use a local anaesthetic to numb either your wrist or groin. A thin tube (catheter) is then passed into your artery and using X-rays it is guided up to your heart. Then a special fluid that shows up on X-rays (contrast medium) is passed through the tubes into the arteries of your heart. Then the doctors can look at the X-rays and identify if there are any problems.

How do I prepare?

- You can eat a light meal up to 2 hours before your admission
- You can drink clear fluids up to the time of your appointment
- Please take your medications as normal unless you have been specifically advised otherwise. Your appointment letter will tell you any medications you NEED to stop
- Please bring in a list of your medications
- We will provide a theatre gown for you to change into for your angiogram
- If you are wearing a bra we will ask you to remove it during the procedure
- You will not be able to drive for 48 hours after the procedure so please arrange for a friend or family member to provide transport home
- As there is a small risk of bleeding after the angiogram we advise you to arrange for someone to stay with you for twenty-four hours after you go home

What happens after the test?

- Usually, you will go home the same day, in rare cases you may be asked to stay in hospital
- Before you go home you will receive the results of your angiogram
- Once the local anaesthetic wears off you may feel some discomfort, painkillers like paracetamol should provide relief

Is this procedure safe?

- This is a routine procedure and complications are rare. However, the complications will be discussed with you on the day and are listed on the consent form included with this leaflet. Please remember **not** to fill in this form and to bring it with you on the day
- We use X-rays during your angiogram. X-rays carry a very small risk of tissue and cell damage. These risks are far outweighed by the benefits of having this procedure. If you want any more information about the effects of X-rays, please speak to our staff on the day and they will be happy to help
- If there is any chance you might be pregnant, please inform the staff at once

What if I need hospital transport?

If you need hospital transport, then please call the number on your appointment letter to arrange it. We strongly advise that you do not use public transport after having this procedure.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact the Cardiac Catheter Suite (Monday-Friday 8-4pm) **01772 524382**.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

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All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.

This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

patientexperienceandinvolem@LTHTR.nhs.uk

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