

Angiogram

Please read this before your appointment. Feel free to ask questions.

An **Angiogram** is an x-ray procedure using contrast to look at blood vessels. The contrast is injected into the blood vessels. An interventional radiologist performs the exam. An interventional radiologist is a doctor who specializes in angiograms. A radiologic technologist and a nurse assist the doctor.

You are scheduled for an exam at the following HealthEast facility:

- St. John's Hospital
- St. Joseph's Hospital
- Woodwinds Health Campus

Appointment Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Questions about scheduling, call: St. Paul Radiology 651-917-9930

Please let us know if you:

- Are or might be pregnant.
- Are allergic to shellfish, the iodine dye that is used in x-ray tests or anything else that contains iodine. Or any other medication allergies.

Preparation

Your doctor's office will give you instructions for preparing for this exam. You will be told not to eat or drink after midnight the night before your exam. You may take your regular medications. If you are taking blood thinners, please talk to your physician. Before your exam, you will be asked to fill out a worksheet about your medical history.

You will need to have someone drive you home and stay with you overnight. For some exams, you will be asked stay in the hospital overnight.

The Examination

When you arrive to the hospital, you will be taken to a room. You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and robe. The nurse will ask you some questions and will review your doctor's order. After this is completed, the nurse will shave the area of your body where the needle will be placed. Most times this is the groin area.

When it is time for the exam, the radiologist or his staff will explain the exam. At this time, they will answer any questions you may have. If you wish, they will also speak to your family before they begin the exam. You will need to sign a consent form for this exam.

You will be asked to lie on your back for the exam. During this time you will be given medicine to relieve any pain or anxiety you may have. The technologist will begin by cleaning the shaved area and covering it with a cloth. The radiologist will inject a medicine to numb the skin. This will sting for a minute. The radiologist will use a needle to enter the blood vessel. A small, hollow, plastic tube, called a sheath, is placed into the blood vessel. A catheter is then moved to the area of interest and images (pictures) are obtained. You will feel a warm/hot sensation and might have slight discomfort at the injection time. This will last a short time.

After the pictures have been taken, the radiologist will look at them. If no other pictures are needed, the catheter will be removed. Pressure will be applied on the needle site to stop any bleeding. We will hold pressure on the catheter site for 15-20 minutes after the exam.

When the Exam Is Completed

You will be asked to lie quietly in bed for four to eight hours. Your head may be raised 30 degrees, but your leg (where the catheter was) must be kept straight to prevent bleeding. The radiologist may come to see you after the exam and the nurse will check your legs, your pulse, blood pressure and the catheter site often.

You may go back to your normal diet. Before you leave the hospital, you will be given a list of instructions to follow at home. Feel free to ask questions if something is not clear to you. We welcome your comments.

At HealthEast, we are dedicated to providing the best possible care. Thank you for taking time to read these instructions. We hope to make your experience as pleasant as possible.

Billing Information

You will receive two bills for this exam:

1. The technical fee is for doing the procedure. It will be from the HealthEast facility. If you have questions regarding this bill, call 651-232-1100.
2. The professional fee is for the radiologist's time. It will be from the radiologist's group. There will be a phone number on the bill that you may call if you have any questions regarding the charge.

Materials provided by HealthEast Patient Education Service. For 24 hour access and referral:
HealthEast Care Connection: 651/326-CARE (2273) · 1-866-326-CARE (toll free)
· www.healtheast.org