



# Coronary Angiography

## Patient Information



# What is it?

**Coronary angiography is used to find out whether the arteries that supply blood to your heart muscle (the coronary arteries) have blockages or narrowings.**

X-ray pictures taken during the examination show the dye injected into these arteries. Your cardiologist may also measure the blood flow and blood pressure in the heart chambers during this test.



A catheterisation laboratory where coronary angiography is performed

## What should I expect?



**The test takes about 45 minutes. You may be asked to have blood tests and an electrocardiogram (ECG) before your angiogram.**

Once you are in the catheterisation laboratory, you will see television monitors, heart monitors and blood pressure machines.

- You will lie on an examination table, which is usually near an x-ray camera
- Adhesive discs called electrodes are placed on your chest. These electrodes have wires (called leads) which attach to an ECG machine and monitor your heart rhythm during the test
- A nurse will clean (and shave) an area at the top of your leg, or an area on your forearm, where the cardiologist will insert the catheter. A local anaesthetic will be used to numb this area

Next, the cardiologist will make a small incision in the skin and feed the catheter into an artery in your leg or arm.

- Small wires will then be guided up to your heart
- The cardiologist may inject some dye into the pumping chamber of your heart, which can cause a hot flushing sensation for up to 30 seconds
- To examine the blood flow through your coronary arteries, the cardiologist will position the catheter at the opening of each artery and inject dye into them
- The information will be recorded and shown on a television monitor during the procedure

Once the test is complete, the catheter is removed from your leg. Firm pressure is applied to the site to stop any bleeding. Sometimes, the cardiologist places a tiny dissolvable plug into the artery to stop the bleeding.

## Preparation

### **Do not eat or drink anything for two hours before your test**

- If you have diabetes, talk to your cardiologist about your food and insulin intake, as these can affect your blood sugar levels
- Ask your cardiologist whether the medications you currently take should be stopped before the test
- Please bring a list of your medications with you to the procedure on the day
- Do not stop taking aspirin unless instructed to

Make sure you read the consent form and understand the risks involved with this procedure. Please clarify any concerns or queries with your cardiologist before signing the form on the day of the procedure.



## What happens after the test?

We will move you to a recovery room where you will need to rest for 15 to 30 minutes. You may feel a little sleepy until the sedative has worn off. Try to lie still and not bend your knee too much. Nurses will monitor your heart rate and blood pressure. After this time of rest, you may be able to go straight home.

Please ensure you have arranged for someone to collect you following the procedure.

**You need to be gentle with the puncture site for two to three days – absolutely no heavy lifting. Do not drive for 24 hours after the test.**

The doctor will usually have your results available at the end of the test and will advise you about any further treatments required or changes to existing treatment.

**For more information:**

[advaraheartcare.com](http://advaraheartcare.com)

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