

What is Angiography?

Angiography is the injection of contrast (x-ray dye) into your arteries and x-rays are taken. Angiography is usually done to investigate symptoms you may be having. Blocked arteries and aneurysms can be seen on an angiogram. An angiogram may also be done prior to surgery to see detail and determine the best surgical procedure for you.

The radiologist will place a catheter into one of your arteries and inject contrast. Contrast makes the arteries visible on x-ray. The procedure usually takes 1-2 hours. You will not be put to sleep.

How do I prepare for the procedure?

If you are allergic to contrast or iodine let us know as soon as possible so we may prescribe medication to pre-treat you.

No solid food after midnight the day before your procedure. Clear liquids are allowed the morning of your procedure unless otherwise directed. Clear liquids include: Sprite, tea, 7-up, jell-o, coffee without cream, broth, or popsicles.

Medication Instructions for all Interventional Procedures:

- You **must be off your blood thinners** for 5 days prior to procedure. These medications include aspirin, Plavix, Coumadin (Warfarin), and Pletal. If you are on any of these medicines, please inform the doctor that prescribed them before stopping them. Please notify your West Cancer Center nurse or doctor if they are not aware you are taking these medicines. If you have any questions regarding your meds, including if they are blood thinners, please call 901-922-6707.
- Take any additional routine medications the day of the procedure. If you are on insulin ask your doctor about any adjustments that may be needed.
- Your arrival time is 1 ½ hours prior to your procedure. We will need the additional time to do necessary lab tests, start an IV, ask pre-procedural questions and do a nursing assessment.
- Following the procedure you will need to recover in a bed at our facility for 4 to 6 hours before going home.

You will need someone to drive you home. You will not be allowed to drive yourself. If you do not have someone to drive you your test will be rescheduled. You cannot use public transportation.