

What is an Embolization Aneurysm?

Embolization involves the intentional blockage of an artery or vein to stop the flow of blood through a desired vessel. This treatment is used to prevent internal hemorrhage (bleeding) and enlargement of the aneurysm sack.

Once the catheter is placed, contrast (IV) dye is injected and images of the arteries are obtained. Small metal coils, plastic beads, or sponge like material (gelfoam) are deposited into the blood vessel through the catheter to stop the flow of blood. The average length of the procedure is between 1-2 hours.

How do I prepare for the procedure?

No solid food after midnight the day before your procedure. Clear liquids are allowed the morning of the procedure unless told otherwise. This includes: water, tea, broth, popsicles, coffee without cream, 7-up, sprite, apple juice, or white cranberry juice.

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.