

# Angiography

## Patient Education & Preparation Instructions

### **What is an Angiogram?**

Angiography is an x-ray procedure that uses images to study the arteries and/or veins. It is especially valuable to monitor blood flow capacities, analyze hardening of the arteries, and for vascular tumors and certain wounds and injuries. The procedure is performed by a radiologist, a physician who specializes in diagnostic imaging.

A narrow catheter is inserted into a blood vessel and guided to the area to be imaged. The radiologist then injects a contrast liquid that is seen by x-rays as it travels through the bloodstream.

The radiologist will discuss the procedure with you in the hospital's Surgery & Outpatient Procedures area if you are an outpatient or in your hospital room if you are an inpatient.

### **What to Expect During the Exam**

The exam is done in a specially equipped room in Aspirus Riverview Hospital's Imaging Services Department. You will be transported to imaging services on a cart and asked to lie on your back on the exam table. A nurse and radiologic technologist will prepare you for the exam.

If you are given sedation, we will be monitoring your heartbeat and blood pressure throughout the procedure. The most common approach used will be the artery in the groin area. The radiologist will numb the area with local anesthetic and insert a needle into the blood vessel. He or she will guide a catheter to the area to be imaged, the contrast liquid will be injected, and the images will be taken. You may feel a warm sensation during the injection. This process may be repeated several times to view the area from different angles or projections.

As each projection is taken, you will be asked not to move. You may be asked to hold your breath and avoid swallowing. Movement during the filming process can cause the pictures to be blurry, which may require those projections to be repeated.

After the procedure is completed, the catheter will be removed and pressure will be applied until the artery seals itself. You will be transported by cart back to the Surgery & Outpatient Procedures area or your inpatient room.

You will be instructed to be on bed rest during part of the recovery time, ranging from four to six hours.

### **Preparing for Your Angiogram**

Your physician will schedule your procedure with Aspirus Riverview Hospital's Imaging Services Department. He or she will order lab work to be done and send you to Aspirus Riverview Hospital to pre-register. Please see "Special Instructions."

If you need to cancel your appointment, please notify Aspirus Riverview Hospital's Imaging Services Department as soon as possible.

- **Morning Exam**

If your exam is scheduled for the morning (9 am-12 noon), you must not eat or drink after midnight. However, you may take your morning medications with a sip of water. *If you are diabetic, **DO NOT** take your insulin.*

- **Afternoon Exam**

If your exam is scheduled for the afternoon (1-4 pm), you may eat a light breakfast before 8 am with your medications, including insulin, then do not eat or drink anything until after the exam.

## Reporting the Results

Your angiogram will be studied by the radiologist, and a report will be sent to your physician. Your physician will discuss the results with you.

Aspirus Riverview Hospital Imaging Services Department 715-421-7430

## **PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**Stop by the Registration Department in Aspirus Riverview Hospital's Lobby Rotunda  
Monday-Thursday 8 am-5:30 pm; Friday 8 am-5 pm; Or call 715-421-7499**

## **Special Instructions for Diabetic Patients:**

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN for dosing instructions and scheduling lab work if you are on Metformin or Metformin-containing medications!!**

If you are diabetic and take Metformin or Metformin-containing medications such as: Glucovance, Glucophage, Glucophage XR, Diabiformin or Silubin Retard, you will need to temporarily stop this medication before and up to 48 hours after your imaging procedure. You will also need follow-up lab work 48 hours after your imaging procedure to re-evaluate your renal function prior to restarting your medication.

*If you are unable to keep your appointment, please let Aspirus Riverview Hospital's Imaging Services Department know as soon as possible. Should you be admitted to the hospital, please inform your physician about your appointment.*



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