

A guide to your cerebral catheter angiogram



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Radiology 1
0161 206 2206



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Why do I need a catheter angiogram?

A cerebral angiogram is a specialised way of viewing the blood vessels of the brain.

There are specific conditions that can affect the blood vessels, which if left untreated can lead to symptomatic problems.

By clearly identifying any abnormalities of the blood vessels, doctors are able to advise you on any treatment that may be necessary.

What does the procedure involve?

Blood vessels are not normally seen on x-rays; therefore a colourless dye (contrast) is injected into the vessels whilst an x-ray machine acquires images.

These images allow the specialised doctors to examine the blood supply in detail.

A catheter angiogram is a minimally invasive technique of acquiring these images and provides the best quality pictures of your arteries.

To perform the angiogram a specialised doctor will normally insert a short tube into one of the arteries in your groin.

A catheter (long plastic tube) is then carefully steered into the blood vessels they wish to examine. They will then inject the contrast and acquire the images.

Who will do the cerebral angiogram?

A specially trained doctor called an Interventional Neuroradiologist will undertake the procedure.

The team helping to complete the angiogram consists of interventional nurses, radiographers and anaesthetists, who are all highly trained in helping the Radiologist and making you, feel at ease.

Where will the procedure take place?

The procedure is undertaken in an Angiographic theatre within the Radiology department and can be done as a day case appointment.

Most people can return home on the evening after their angiogram.

How long will it take?

The procedure is very quick and should be completed within 60 minutes.



What preparation is there for my angiogram?

Before your procedure you will need to fast (not eat or drink). If your appointment is in the morning, we will ask you to not eat or drink from midnight on the day of your appointment.

If you require a small drink, water is permitted up to 2 hours before your appointment. However, eating and drinking on the day of your appointment can cause delays and even cancellations.

If you are taking regular medication these should be taken as normal with a small amount of water, unless it has been specified in your appointment letter. Please bring a list of your current medication with you.

You will need to attend to the area specified on your admissions letter on the day of your appointment. On admission a member of staff will take clinical observations, such as measuring your blood pressure and completing a safety checklist.

At this time a small blood test may be performed. It is important that you tell the staff of any allergies you may have, as well as mentioning if you have diabetes, asthma or any heart problems. If you are female the staff may also require to check if you could be pregnant.

The Interventional Neuroradiologist performing the procedure will visit you to explain the benefits of the procedure and any associated risks.

They will then ask you to sign a consent form, and answer any questions that you may have about your procedure.

Before you are taken to the Angiography department you will be asked to change into a hospital gown and remove any jewellery or hair pieces that you are wearing.

It is advisable not to bring valuables into the department for your procedure.

What happens during my procedure?

Once you arrive in the Angiography suite an anaesthetist will insert a cannula into a vein in your arm.

This is completed so that if you require any medication or fluids during your procedure it can be easily given. This can also be used to administer sedation for patients who are very anxious, however, most patients are easily able to complete the procedure without any medication.

You will then be taken into the Angiography room. This is a large specialised theatre that contains two x-ray machines. You will be asked to lie on an x-ray table and the two machines will be moved into position over you.

These machines are necessary to help the doctor carefully guide the catheters into correct positions.

To ensure that the procedure is kept sterile your groin will be cleaned with a sterile solution and you will be covered with sterile covers. This will reduce the chance of any infections.

The Interventional Neuroradiologist will then inject local anaesthetic in to the groin which will numb the area where the artery is located.

When the area is numb a sheath (a short thin tube) will be inserted into the artery in your groin. This should not be painful, but you may feel some pressure whilst it is being correctly placed.

After this a catheter will be placed through the sheath and guided through the arteries until it reaches the correct area. You will not be able to feel the catheter being moved through your arteries.

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Contrast dye is then injected through the catheter whilst the x-ray machines collect images.

The radiologist may ask you to hold your breath and keep very still whilst the images are being collected. This limits the chance of any images being blurred.

The x-ray machines will then move around you, allowing for the arteries to be looked at in different angles. When the dye is injected some patients may feel a warm flush, experience a metallic taste or some visual symptoms (flashing lights).

Once all the images have been collected the Interventional Neuroradiologist will remove the catheter and sheath from the artery within your groin.

It is then necessary to firmly press on the site for at least 10 minutes, which will prevent bleeding.

A small dressing will then be placed over the entry site, and you will be transferred on to a trolley and escorted to a ward.

What happens after the procedure?

When you are on the ward it is important to rest. You will be asked to lie flat for between 4 and 6 hours, to ensure the entry site has sufficiently healed.

During this time, you will have regular clinical observations performed, and will be allowed to eat and drink as normal. When the ward staff are happy you will be able to go home.

You should be accompanied home by a responsible adult and must not drive for 24 hours.

Public transport is not recommended in case you feel unwell. If you require hospital transport, please contact the appointment office.

It is recommended that you have an adult stay with you for the 24 hours after your procedure.

It is also advisable to avoid strenuous exercise for 48 hours and do not have a bath or shower for 12 hours after your angiogram.

Simple painkillers can be useful for post angiogram discomfort, and regular medications should be taken as normal unless stated otherwise by hospital staff.

It can be beneficial to drink additional fluids to help remove the contrast dye from your body.

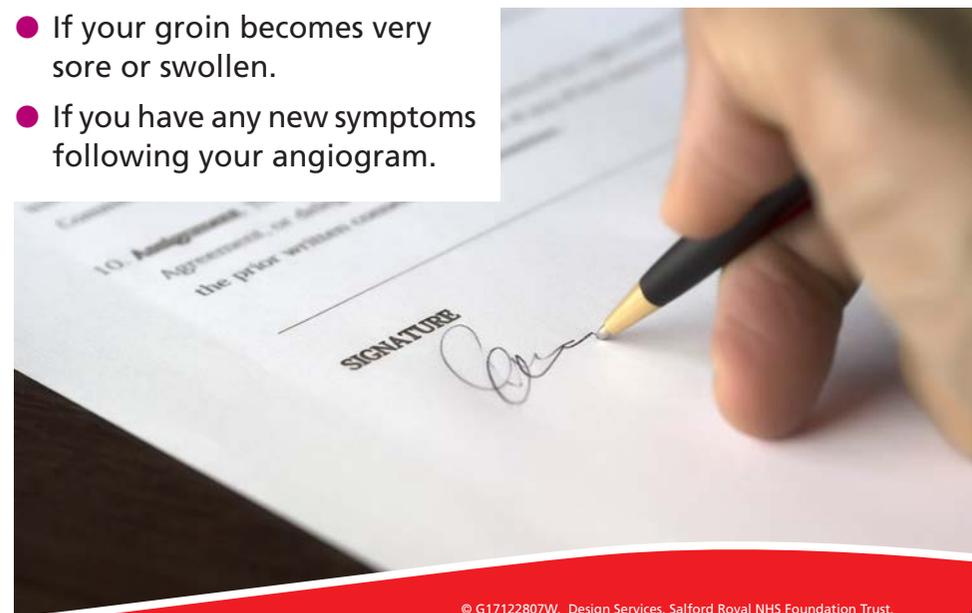
You should contact a doctor if you experience any of the following after your angiogram.

- If your groin begins to bleed. In this case you should try and apply pressure to the area whilst you are awaiting advice.
- If your groin becomes very sore or swollen.
- If you have any new symptoms following your angiogram.

When will I get the results?

Although the Interventional Neuroradiologist will look at the images whilst they are being acquired, they must be examined in detail after your angiogram.

These images may then be discussed with your referring consultant and a formal clinic appointment will be arranged to discuss the results and any further recommended treatment.



Are there any potential risks?

Catheter angiograms are very safe and performed on a regular basis by the Angiography team.

- **Allergic reaction**

Occasionally some patients have an allergic reaction to contrast dye. This is normally minor and would result in a skin rash or nausea. The team looking after you are trained to detect any reactions, but it is vital that any allergies are noted by the medical professionals looking after your care.

- **Kidney function**

Contrast can affect the kidneys due to the way it is broken down within the body. If you have poor renal function the doctor may prescribe some fluids and a blood test, which will help monitor your kidneys function.

- **Bleeding / bruising**

As the procedure involves making a small puncture to the artery, there is normally a small amount of bruising to the site. Occasionally the bleeding around the site may continue, if this occurs further treatment may be required.

- **Infection**

There is minimal chance of infection, as the procedure is completed in sterile conditions. If an infection around the site did occur, antibiotics would be prescribed.

- **Further complications**

Serious complications, such as stroke and death can occur, but are extremely rare. These complications will all be discussed with the Interventional Neuroradiologist before you complete your angiogram.

What if I decide not to have the procedure done?

If you decide not to go ahead with your catheter angiogram after you have discussed the procedure with the radiologist, the department will notify your referring consultant.

From here the referring consultant can discuss any further options for imaging or treatment with you.

If you are diabetic

If you are diabetic please contact the:

Diabetes Centre

Between 8.30am and 12 noon on:

 **0161 212 2095**

Do this as soon as you receive this appointment and ask to speak to a diabetes specialist nurse.

Failure to follow this advice may result in your appointment being cancelled.

What if I cannot attend for my appointment?

If you have any questions about your examination or cannot make the appointment, please telephone the help-line on:

 **0161 206 2044**

 **0161 206 2404**

Monday to Friday between 8.30am and to 4.00pm

If you are not able to telephone please contact us via email on:

 ***booking.radiology@srft.nhs.uk***

Please include your name, address, date of birth and hospital number (if known) on all correspondence

Please help us to cut our waiting lists. If you need to cancel or change your appointment call us as soon as you can, so that we can give it to another patient.

Interpreters

We prefer to avoid using family members for interpretation/translation. If you need an interpreter for your examination and/or procedure (either verbal, non-English language or non-verbal, e.g. British Sign Language, Makaton etc.), please call the department so that we can try to arrange this, or there is information about interpretation services on the back page of this leaflet.

I need an ambulance, how do I arrange this?

If you need an ambulance there are contact details on your appointment letter.

Please inform the department, using the contact details in this leaflet, if you are arriving by ambulance.

Other sources of information

Your questions should have been answered by this leaflet, but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you.

Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure, before you sign the consent form.

Further information regarding the examination can be found on the Internet:

NHSUK, 13/01/2017,
NHS Choices, Angiography

 www.nhs.uk/conditions/angiography/

Brain and Spine Foundations,
03/2017, Angiogram of the Brain

 www.brainandspine.org.uk/angiogram-brain

Society of Interventional
Radiology, 2017,
Tiny incision, big result

 www.sirweb.org

NHS 111 Service

when its less urgent than 999

 **111**

NHS Direct

 www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

If you require further advice or information about this test please contact the:

 Angiography Suite,
Salford Royal NHS Foundation
Trust,
Stott Lane, Salford, M6 8HD

 **0161 206 2206**

 **0161 206 5091**

In accordance with the Equality Act we will make 'reasonable adjustments' to enable individuals with disabilities, to access this service.

Finally...

Hopefully some of your questions should have been answered by this leaflet but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you.

Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure in advance.

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Information Leaflet Control Policy:

Unique Identifier: CS72(17)

Review Date: March 2020

Salford Royal **NHS**

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For further information on this leaflet, it's references and sources used, please contact **0161 206 2206**.

Copies of this leaflet are available in other formats (for example, large print or easyread) upon request. Alternative formats may also be available via www.srft.nhs.uk/for-patients/patient-leaflets/

In accordance with the Equality Act we will make reasonable adjustments to enable individuals with disabilities to access this service. Please contact the service/clinic you are attending by phone or email prior to your appointment to discuss your requirements.

Interpreters are available for both verbal and non-verbal (e.g. British Sign Language) languages, on request. Please contact the service/clinic you are visiting to request this.

If you need this information leaflet translated, please telephone:

Polish

Jeżeli potrzebne jest Państwu to tłumaczenie, proszę zadzwonić pod numer.

Urdu

اگر آپ کو اس ترجمانی کی ضرورت ہے تو مہربانی کر کے فون کریں۔

Arabic

إذا كنتم بحاجة الى تفسير او ترجمة هذا الرجاء الاتصال

Chinese

如果需要翻译，请拨打电话

Farsi

اگر به ترجمه این نیاز دارید ، لطفاً تلفن کنید

0161 206 0224

or Email:

InterpretationandTrans@srft.nhs.uk

Under the Human Tissue Act 2004, consent will not be required from living patients from whom tissue has been taken for diagnosis or testing to use any left over tissue for the following purposes: clinical audit, education or training relating to human health, performance assessment, public health monitoring and quality assurance.

If you object to your tissue being used for any of the above purposes, please inform a member of staff immediately.

Salford Royal operates a smoke-free policy.

For advice on stopping smoking contact the Hospital Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 0161 206 1779

This is a teaching hospital which plays an important role in the training of future doctors. The part patients play in this process is essential to make sure that we produce the right quality doctors for all of our futures. If at any time you would prefer not to have students present please inform the doctor or nurses and this will not affect your care in anyway.

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www.srft.nhs.uk

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www.srft.nhs.uk/for-members

If you have any suggestions as to how this document could be improved in the future then please visit:
<http://www.srft.nhs.uk/for-patients>