

# A guide to your renal fistula angioplasty



Turnberg Building  
Radiology 1  
0161 206 2206



Health & care  
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## Why do I need a renal angioplasty?

Your tests have shown that there is a narrowed area in your fistula that is causing reduced blood flow and is affecting your dialysis.

Your Consultant and a Radiologist (specialist x-ray doctor) have discussed your case and feel that the narrowing should initially be treated by angioplasty.

If this is not treated or you decide not to have this procedure your fistula may block. The angioplasty is being performed as an alternative to an operation - if this is not successful an operation may still be required.

## What does a fistula angioplasty involve?

It is a non-surgical procedure used to re-open blocked or narrowed blood vessels in your fistula arm. The procedure takes between 30 minutes and 1 hour.

Angioplasty is the inflation of a balloon inside the blood vessel at the area in which it is narrowed. This makes the opening of the blood vessel bigger and allows better blood flow.

The angioplasty is done in the X-ray Department - it is similar to a dye test (fistulagram)

You will be given local anaesthetic in the skin.

A small tube is passed into the fistula and positioned at the site of narrowing.

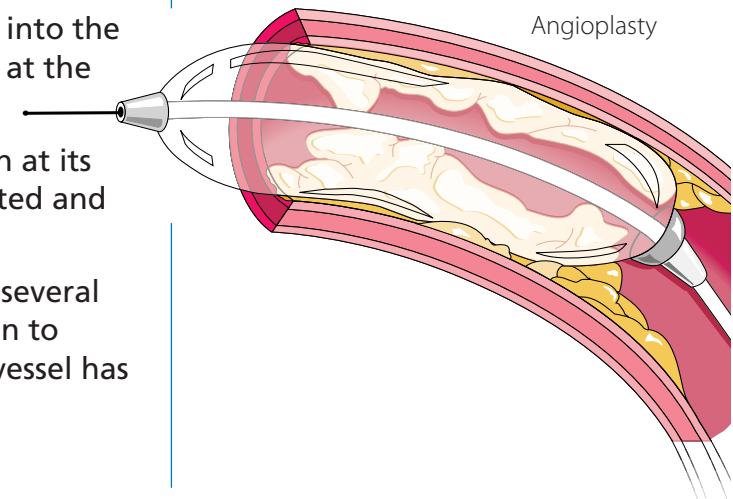
The tube has a balloon at its tip which is then inflated and deflated.

This may be repeated several times. X-rays are taken to check that the blood vessel has stretched open.

Most patients do not feel the balloon inflating, however, some do feel pressure in the fistula for just a few seconds.

Sometimes a second needle must be placed in another part of the fistula in order to perform the angioplasty.

When your angioplasty is completed, the tube is removed and the radiologist will press on the incision site for a short time until it has stopped bleeding.



## Preparation

Complications of the angioplasty that may require an urgent operation are uncommon.

Occasionally there may be a small bruise, called a haematoma, around the site where the needle has been inserted and this is quite normal.

An operation may be required if the fistula bleeds following angioplasty. Surgery may also be needed if there is damage to the artery supplying the fistula or if the fistula blocks off during the angioplasty. Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure, before you sign the consent form.

## What are the risks?

You will usually be admitted on the day of the angioplasty and you will be able to go home about an hour after the procedure if there are no complications.

## Will it hurt?

When the local anaesthetic is injected, it will sting to start with, but this soon wears off, and the skin and deeper tissues should then feel numb.

After this, the procedure should not be painful. There will be a nurse, or another member of clinical staff, looking after you at all times.

**Please take all your medication as normal on the day of your procedure.**

## Will I need to fast for my procedure?

No.

## How will I be prepared?

A member of staff will measure your blood pressure, pulse and temperature.

A fine tube (cannula) will be put into one of the veins in your arm. We will ask you to undress and put on a hospital gown.

## After the procedure?

You will be observed by ward staff following the procedure to ensure your fistula continues to function and will be discharged after an hour if there are no complications. Please ensure that you have somebody to take you home and stay with you overnight.

## Are there alternatives to renal fistula angioplasty?

Your Consultant and Radiologist have discussed your case and feel that the narrowing should initially be treated by angioplasty.

An operation is usually possible as an alternative if you don't want an angioplasty.

If you have any concerns about preparing for you renal fistula angioplasty contact:

 **0161 206 2206**

 **0161 206 2209**

## 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](mailto: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

If you need an interpreter for your examination please call the department so that we can try to arrange this, or there will be information about translation services on the back page of this booklet.

## 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 booklet, if you are arriving by ambulance.

## Other sources of information

We hope your questions have been answered by this leaflet, further information regarding the examination can be found on the internet.

### Websites

For general information about radiology departments, visit The Royal College of Radiologists' website:

 [www.goingfora.com](http://www.goingfora.com)

 [www.rcr.ac.uk](http://www.rcr.ac.uk)

### NHS 111 Service

when its less urgent than 999


 **111**

### NHS Direct

 [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)

## Notes

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

 X-ray Department,  
Radiology 1,  
Salford Royal NHS Foundation  
Trust,  
Stott Lane, Salford, M6 8HD

 **0161 206 2206**

 **0161 206 2209**

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

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Copies of this information are available in other languages and formats upon request.

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

**If you need this interpreting please telephone**

Polish

Jeżeli potrzebne jest Państwu 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**

Email: [InterpretationandTrans@srft.nhs.uk](mailto: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

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M6 8HD

Telephone **0161 789 7373**  
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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>