

Having an angiogram at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

Royal Manchester Children's Hospital
Division of Imaging



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This leaflet tells you about the procedure known as an angiogram, (or having angiography). It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor, but can act as a starting point for such a discussion. Whether your child is having a pre-planned angiogram or as an emergency procedure, you should have sufficient explanation before you sign the consent form.

The Radiology Department may also be called the X-ray or imaging department. It is the facility in the hospital where radiological examinations of patients are carried out, using a range of imaging equipment.

Radiologists are doctors specially trained to interpret the images and carry out more complex examinations. They are supported by radiographers who are highly trained to carry out X-rays and other imaging procedures.

What is an angiogram?

An angiogram is a procedure where X-rays are used to examine blood vessels. Normally, blood vessels do not show up on ordinary X-rays and a special dye, called contrast medium, is injected into the artery through a fine plastic tube called a catheter. X-rays are then taken immediately afterwards, producing detailed images of arteries and veins.

Why does my child need an angiogram?

The reason your child may require an angiogram is that there may be a problem with their blood vessels. Previous tests that have been carried out, such as a Doppler ultrasound, provide useful information, but it may not be the best way of obtaining the amount of detail provided by an angiogram.

Who has made the decision?

The consultant in charge of your case and the radiologist doing the angiogram believe this is the next step. However, you will also have the opportunity for your opinion to be taken into account, and if, after discussion with your doctors, you do not want the procedure carried out, you can decide against it.

Who will be doing the angiogram?

A specially trained doctor called a radiologist. Radiologists have special expertise in using X-ray and scanning equipment, and also in interpreting the images produced. They will look at these images while carrying out the procedure.

Where will the procedure take place?

In the Radiology Department.

How is my child prepared for an angiogram?

We understand that you and your child may be anxious about this procedure. You are welcome to bring your child to see the X-ray department and the room where the angiogram will happen, before the procedure. Please telephone X-ray reception on (0161) 701 4000 Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, or ask your doctor or the ward staff, to make arrangements. Please feel free to ask any member of staff at any time about anything which concerns you. Please tell your child as much or as little about the procedure as you think they can manage without making them anxious.

Children usually have this procedure under a general anaesthetic. It is most important that your child does not eat or drink anything before the anaesthetic. Please see the appointment letter for instructions.

If your child has any allergies, you must let their doctor know. If your child has previously reacted to intravenous contrast medium (the dye used for kidney X-rays and CT scans), you must also tell their doctor about this.

When you arrive

You will be asked to bring your child to the hospital ward on the evening or morning before the procedure where an anaesthetist will come to do a pre anaesthetic assessment on the ward. Any other necessary tests can be done then too.

What happens during an angiogram?

You and your child will be brought in to the X-ray room, where your child will be put to sleep by the anaesthetist. This may include your child having a needle put into a vein in his or her arm, so that medicines can be given during the anaesthetic. Parents are asked to leave the room while the procedure is being carried out. Your child will lie on the X-ray table, generally flat on his or her back.

The radiologist will clean the skin near the point of insertion, probably the groin, and then a needle will be inserted into the artery. Once the radiologist is satisfied that this is correctly positioned, a guide wire is placed through the needle, and into the artery. Then the needle is withdrawn allowing a fine plastic tube called a catheter to be placed over the wire and into the artery.

The radiologist uses the X-ray equipment to make sure that the catheter and the wire are moved into the right position, and then the wire is withdrawn. A special dye, contrast medium, is then injected through the catheter and X-rays are taken. Once the radiologist is satisfied that the X-rays show all the information required, the catheter will be removed.

How long will it take?

Every patient's situation is different, and it is not always easy to predict how complex or how straightforward the procedure will be. Depending on the location of the procedure, for example, if looking at a large artery in the leg, this could take half an hour, if looking at smaller arteries it may be more

complex and take longer possibly up to an hour. As a guide expect your child to be in the X-ray room for two hours altogether.

What happens afterwards?

At the end of the procedure, the radiologist will inject a local anaesthetic into the area where the catheter was inserted to reduce the pain when your child wakes up.

Then your child is usually taken to the recovery room in the operating theatre suite where he or she can be safely brought round from the anaesthetic. You will be allowed to see your child as soon as they are properly awake. The nurses will also look at the skin entry point to make sure there is no bleeding from it. Your child will then go back to the ward. They may be allowed home on the same day, or kept in hospital overnight.

Will it hurt?

Your child may feel some stiffness and discomfort in their groin after the procedure. This is usually not severe. If there is any pain, please ask the ward staff for some pain relieving medicine.

Are there any risks or complications?

An angiogram is a safe procedure, but there are some risks and complications that can arise. There may be a small bruise around the site where the needle has been inserted and this is quite normal. There is a chance that the bruise may become very large and uncomfortable, but this does not happen very often.

If a large bruise develops, there may be a risk of it getting infected, and this would be treated with antibiotics. In some hospitals, a large bruise is treated by having a small operation to drain it. As with any mechanical device, there is also the possibility the catheter may fail. Despite these possible complications, the procedure is normally very safe, and is carried out with no significant side-effects at all.

When will you get the results?

The scan will be examined after your visit and a written report on the findings sent to your referring doctor which is normally available in 14 days.

Further information

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

Other sources of information

Websites

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

NHS Direct

For health advice or information you can call NHS Direct on 0845 45647 or visit the website: www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

No Smoking Policy

Please protect our patients, visitors and staff by adhering to our no smoking policy. Smoking is not permitted in any of our hospital buildings or grounds, except in the dedicated smoking shelters in the grounds of our Hospital site.

For advice and support on how to give up smoking, go to www.nhs.uk/smokefree.

Translation and Interpretation Service

It is our policy that family, relatives or friends cannot interpret for patients. Should you require an interpreter ask a member of staff to arrange it for you.

تنص سياستنا على عدم السماح لافراد عائلة المرضى او اقاربهم او اصدقائهم بالترجمة لهم. اذا احتجت الى مترجم فيرجى ان تطلب ذلك من احد العاملين ليرتب لك ذلك.

بماری یہ پالیسی ہے کہ خاندان ، رشتہ دار اور دوست مریضوں کے لئے ترجمہ نہیں کر سکتے۔ اگر آپ کو مترجم کی ضرورت ہے تو عملے کے کسی رکن سے کہیں کہ وہ آپ کے لئے اس کا بندوبست کر دے۔

ইহা আমাদের নীতি যে, একজন রোগীর জন্য তার পরিবারের সদস্য, আত্মীয় বা কোন বন্ধু অনুবাদক হতে পারবেন না। আপনার একজন অনুবাদকের প্রয়োজন হলে তা একজন কর্মচারীকে জানান অনুবাদকের ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য।

Nasze zasady nie pozwalają na korzystanie z pomocy członków rodzin pacjentów, ich przyjaciół lub ich krewnych jako tłumaczy. Jeśli potrzebują Państwo tłumacza, prosimy o kontakt z członkiem personelu, który zorganizuje go dla Państwa.

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我们的方针是，家属，亲戚和朋友不能为病人做口译。如果您需要口译员，请叫员工给您安排。



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