





What is it?

An angiogram is a medical imaging technique of assessing the blood vessels. Contrast (x-ray dye) is injected into an artery and x-rays are taken as the contrast passes through the blood vessels.

Who is it for?

An angiogram is performed to define abnormalities of blood vessels, such as a stenosis/narrowing, blockage, or an abnormality of the vessel wall (such as fibromuscular dysplasia or vasculitis). It may also be used to help plan an operation or assess post operative complications.

How is it done?

Angiograms are usually performed under local anaesthetic or sedation, in an operating room with specialised medical imaging equipment. Your interventional radiologist will pass a small tube into the artery of your groin or wrist, navigating the tube into the area requiring assessment using x-ray guidance. Contrast (x-ray dye) is then injected, and x-rays are taken as the contrast pass through the vessels, defining the anatomy of the vessel.

What are the risks?

Complications from a diagnostic angiogram are very rare, however it is important to discuss the risks and complications of this procedure with your interventional radiologist in full. Some of the risk associated with this procedure include:

- reaction to contrast agent (x-ray dye)
- bruising or bleeding from arterial puncture site
- damage to other blood vessels along catheter path

Follow up

This is usually done as a day case and you do not need to stay in hospital overnight afterwards.

Our clinic nurse will contact you within a few days of your procedure and your interventional radiologist will discuss these results with your referring doctor to guide further treatment.

