

## How do I care for myself at home?

Resume taking any regular medications unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

Drink plenty of fluids.

Return to your regular diet.

**Do not** do any strenuous exercise or lifting for at least two days.

**Do not** smoke for at least 24 hours

Call the doctor who ordered this procedure for a follow-up appointment.

## When to get help

If you notice **bleeding** at the insertion site:

- Lie down flat.
- Press down firmly about 1 to 2 cm. (1 in.) above the insertion site for 15 minutes.
- If bleeding has not stopped, call 9-1-1.

Contact your doctor right away if you have any of these:

- any change in color or temperature at the insertion site
- bleeding from the insertion site
- numbness, coolness, or change in color of the arm, hand, or leg where the catheter was inserted
- fever above 38.5°C (101°F)

## HealthLinkBC

8-1-1

Call any time you have any questions or concerns. HealthLinkBC is open 24 hours. Available in 130 languages. For an interpreter, say your language in English. Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.

## Locations

**Abbotsford-Regional Hospital** 604-851-4866  
Medical Imaging 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Fraser Wing  
32900 Marshall Road, Abbotsford

**Burnaby Hospital** 604-434-4211  
Medical Imaging, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
3935 Kincaid Street, Burnaby

**Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre** 604-533-3308  
Ext. 63926  
Medical Imaging, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
9750 140<sup>th</sup> Street, Surrey

**Lions Gate Hospital** 604-984-5775  
Medical Imaging, Lower Level  
231 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street, North Vancouver

**Richmond Hospital** 604-278-9711  
Medical Imaging, Main Floor  
7000 Westminster Hwy, Richmond

**Royal Columbian Hospital** 604-520-4640  
Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower  
330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster

**St. Paul's Hospital** 604-806-8006  
Medical Imaging, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Providence Building  
1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver

**Surrey Memorial Hospital** 604-588-3308  
Medical Imaging, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Lower Level  
13750 96<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Surrey

**UBC Hospital** 604-822-7076  
Medical Imaging, Main Floor  
2211 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver

**Vancouver General Hospital** 604-875-4111  
Interventional Radiology, Jim Pattison Pavilion Ext 68612  
Station 4, Ground Floor, 855 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver

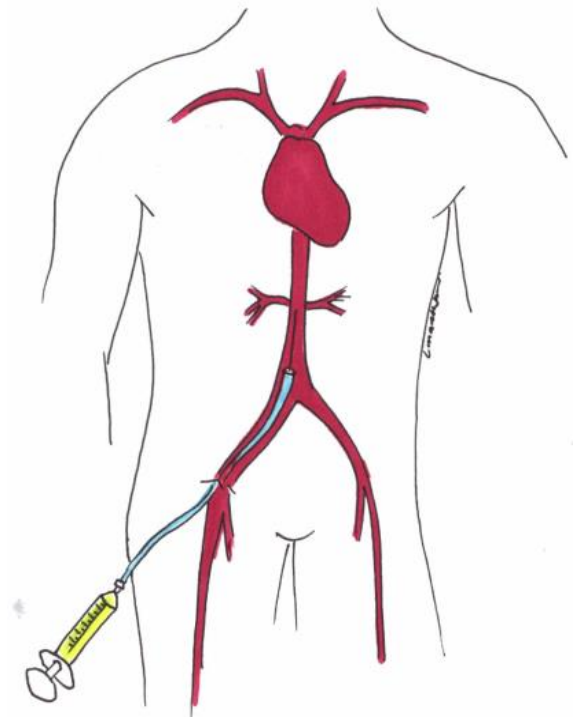
[www.fraserhealth.ca](http://www.fraserhealth.ca) - [www.vch.ca](http://www.vch.ca)

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.

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# Angiography/ Angiogram



## What is an angiography?

Angiography is a procedure to look at arteries and veins in your body using x-rays. To help see the arteries and veins, an x-ray dye (called contrast) is injected. This is called an angiogram.

## Who does the angiogram?

It is done by a radiologist (a doctor who specializes in image guided procedures).

## Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, they can stay with you before and after the procedure. However, for reasons of safety and regulations, they cannot be in the room during the procedure. We will tell you where family members can wait.

## What happens before the procedure?

Medical Imaging Department contacts you with specific instructions on how to prepare for this procedure.

**You must arrange for a 'responsible adult' to drive or accompany you home after this procedure.**

If you have questions about the procedure, ask the radiologist before your procedure.

## How long will it take?

The radiologist tells you about how long it will take. We call your contact person when you are ready to go home.

## What happens during the angiogram?

We start an intravenous in your arm so we can give pain and other medicines to relax you if you need it.

We attach you to a heart and blood pressure monitor.

The radiologist injects numbing medicine to 'freeze' the area in the groin or wrist where a thin tube called a catheter will be placed.

The radiologist makes a small cut in the skin of the groin or wrist.

The catheter is placed in an artery or vein through the cut. The catheter is guided to the area of the body to be examined.

X-ray dye is injected several times through the catheter while x-rays are taken.

## Does it hurt?

It might sting or burn as the numbing medicine is injected. If needed, we can give pain medicine or relaxing medicine.

You might notice a momentary warm or flushed feeling as the x-ray dye is injected. This is normal. Be sure to tell us if you are feeling unwell at any time during the procedure.

After the procedure, you might have some tenderness and bruising at the site where the catheter was inserted.

## What happens afterwards?

The radiologist removes the catheter. We put pressure on the site where the catheter was to control any bleeding. We might use a pressure bandage or a pressure device.

We move you to the recovery area where you are looked after by a nurse. You stay here for 2 to 6 hours, depending on the insertion site used and extent of the procedure.

## Are there any risks or complications?

As with any medical procedure, there is a chance of a complication. Any time the skin is pierced or cut, there is a chance of infection.

Unexpected complications can include:

- bleeding or infection at the insertion site
- bleeding, blockage, or clotting of the arteries or veins being examined or in other places in the body
- allergic reaction to x-ray dye

Life-threatening complications are possible, but rarely occur.

## How do I take care of my insertion site?

Remove the bandage on the insertion site the day following your procedure.

After you remove the bandage, you can shower.