

When to get help

If you have sudden bleeding or swelling at the sheath site:

- Press down firmly on your wrist with 2 fingers about 1 to 2 cm. (½ to 1 in.) above the sheath site for 15 minutes (or have someone press for you). You should be able to feel your heart beat under your fingers.
- If bleeding has not stopped or the swelling is getting larger, keep pressing and call 9-1-1.



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

- Redness and swelling of the sheath site, drainage or pus from the sheath site
- Numbness, tingling, weakness, pain, coolness, or change in color of the hand compared to your other hand
- Fever above 38.5°C (101°F), aches, chills

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.

Care at home

For the next 6 hours, keep your wrist straight.

For the next 24 hours, rest at home.

For the next 48 hours:

- **Do not** submerge your wrist in water.
- **Do not** shower or bath. Take sponge baths only.
- **Do not do** any lifting, pushing, pulling, or twisting with that arm.

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

After 24 hours, you can only return to work if the radiologist told you that you can. You must delay your return to work if your work involves heavy lifting or repetitive wrist movements if you cannot modify your work.

Locations

Abbotsford-Regional Hospital Medical Imaging 2 nd Floor, Fraser Wing 32900 Marshall Road, Abbotsford	604-851-4866
Lions Gate Hospital Medical Imaging, Lower Level 231 East 15 th Street, North Vancouver	604-984-5775
Royal Columbian Hospital Medical Imaging, Columbia Tower 330 E. Columbia Street, New Westminster	604-520-4640
St. Paul's Hospital Medical Imaging, 2 nd Floor, Providence Building 1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver	604-806-8006
Surrey Memorial Hospital Medical Imaging, 1 st Floor, Lower Level 13750 96 th Avenue, Surrey	604-588-3305
UBC Hospital Medical Imaging, Main Floor 2211 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver	604-822-7076
Vancouver General Hospital GI/GU Department, Jim Pattison Pavilion Station 5, Ground Floor 855 West 12 th Avenue, Vancouver	604-875-4111 Ext 68612

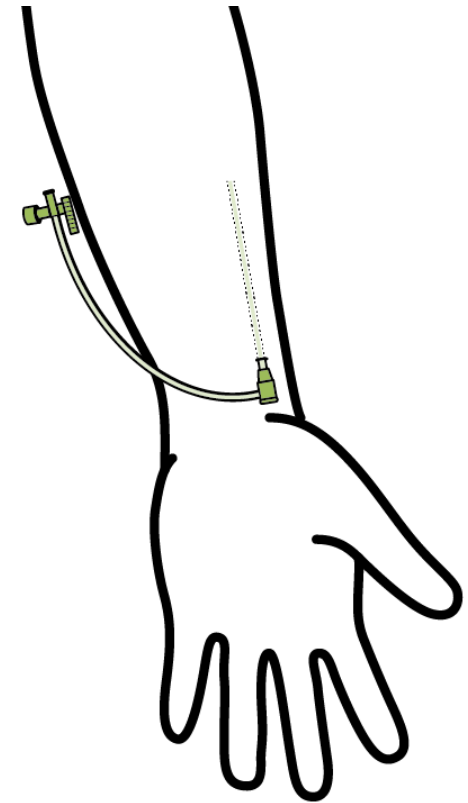
www.fraserhealth.ca - www.vch.ca

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

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Radial Artery Sheath



What is a radial artery sheath?

Your doctor or specialist wants you to have an interventional procedure. The procedure requires access to the inside of your body through an artery.

We use an artery in your wrist called the radial artery. A small thin hollow tube called sheath is inserted through your skin into the radial artery. The sheath is then used for the interventional procedure.

Who inserts the sheath?

It is done by an interventional radiologist (a doctor who specializes in using x-ray, ultrasound, CT scan, and medical resonance imaging to guide diagnosis and treatment). If you have questions, ask the radiologist before your procedure.

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.

How long will it take?

This depends on the interventional procedure you are having done. Including recovery time, you could be at the hospital for up to 7 hours.

What happens during the angiogram?

- The radiologist injects numbing medicine to 'freeze' the area in the wrist where the sheath will be placed.
- The radiologist makes a small cut in the skin of the wrist.
- The sheath is threaded into the radial artery.
- Once the sheath is in place, a catheter can be guided through the sheath to the area of the body to be examined.
- Once the interventional procedure is complete, the radiologist removes the sheath and puts pressure over the site to control any bleeding.
- We might place a pressure bandage or a pressure device to prevent bleeding.

Does it hurt?

It might sting or burn as the numbing medicine is injected. You might feel some pressure as the sheath is placed in your wrist. If needed, we can give pain medicine or relaxing medicine.

After the procedure, you might have some tenderness and bruising on the inside of your wrist.

What happens afterwards?

We move you to the recovery area. A nurse checks you and the needle site to make sure there is no bleeding. You stay in the recovery area for 2 to 6 hours, depending on the type of procedure done.

Are there any risks or complications?

Any time the skin is pierced or cut, there is a chance of infection. Other possible complications can include:

- bleeding from the sheath site
- blockage or clotting in the arteries being examined or in other places in the body

How do I care for my bandage?

Keep the bandage dry.

Remove the bandage the morning after the procedure. If you notice brown material on the skin, do not pick it off.

Wash gently around the area.

Put a new bandage on to protect the area.