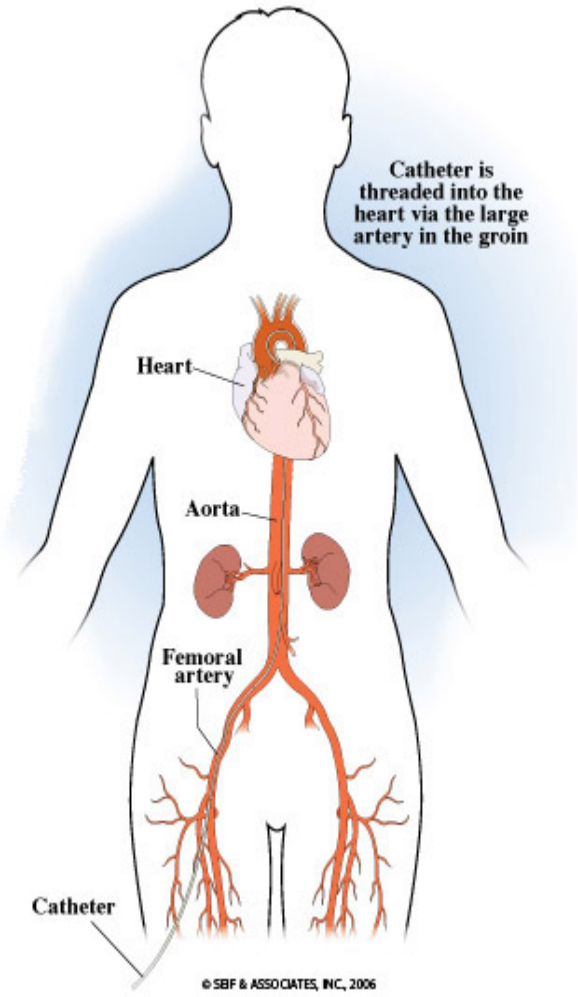
Angiography

Angiography is a procedure used to look at the blood vessels (*arteries*) which carry the blood to different parts of your body. In this procedure a dye is injected through a catheter (a long, narrow, hollow tube) into an artery and x-rays are taken. The *catheter* is like a small tube which can be guided into the artery. X-rays will show if there is a blockage or problem in a blood vessel.

PREPARATION FOR THE PROCEDURE

- Let your caregiver know if you have had an allergy to dyes used in x-ray if you have ever had kidney problems or failure.
- Do not eat or drink starting from midnight up to the time of the procedure.
- You may drink enough water to take your medications the morning of the procedure if you were instructed to do so by your caregiver.
- You should be at the hospital or outpatient facility where the procedure is to be done one hour prior to the procedure or as directed.



PROCEDURE:

1. You may be given a medication to help you relax before and during the procedure through an IV in your hand or arm.
2. A local anesthetic to make the area numb may be used before inserting the *catheter* (a long, hollow tube about the size of a piece of cooked spaghetti).
3. You will be prepared for the procedure by washing and shaving the area where the catheter will be inserted. This is usually done in the groin but may be done in the fold of your arm by your elbow.
4. A specially trained doctor will insert the catheter with a guide wire into a vein. This is guided under a special type of x-ray (*fluoroscopy*) to the right upper chamber of the heart.
5. Special dye is then injected and x-rays are taken which give a picture of the blood vessels leaving your heart and going to your lungs.

AFTER THE PROCEDURE

- After the procedure you will be kept in bed for two to four hours.
- After the catheter comes out, pressure will be kept on the site. A nurse or technician will press on the site with their hand until there is no bleeding. A pressure bandage will then be applied.
- You will be checked often to make sure there is no oozing at the site or other problems. The most common problem is to develop large bruise or clot (*hematoma*) at the site of the catheter insertion.
- Often a chest x-ray will be taken prior to leaving the hospital.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You develop chest pain, shortness of breath, feel faint, or pass out.
- There is bleeding, swelling, or drainage from the catheter insertion site.
- You develop pain, discoloration, coldness, or severe bruising in the leg or arm, or area where the catheter was inserted.
- An unexplained oral temperature above 102º F (38.9º C) develops.

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