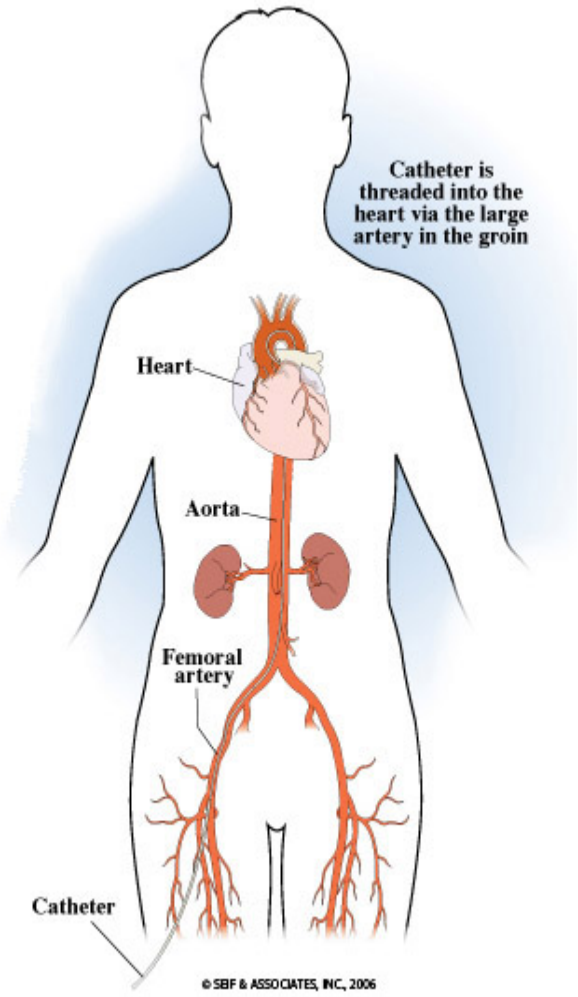
Angiography, Coronary

Coronary angiography is an X-ray procedure used to look at the arteries in the heart. In this procedure, a dye is injected through a long, hollow tube (*catheter*). The catheter is about the size of a piece of cooked spaghetti. The catheter injects a dye into an artery in your groin. X-rays are then taken to show if there is a blockage in the arteries of your heart.

BEFORE THE PROCEDURE

- Let your caregiver know if you have allergies to shellfish or contrast dye. Also let your caregiver know if you have kidney problems or failure.
- Do not eat or drink starting from midnight up to the time of the procedure, or as directed.
- You may drink enough water to take your medications the morning of the procedure if you were instructed to do so.
- You should be at the hospital or outpatient facility where the procedure is to be done 2 hours prior to the procedure, or as directed.



PROCEDURE:

1. You may be given an IV medication to help you relax before the procedure.
2. 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.
3. A medicine will be given to numb your groin where the catheter will be inserted.
4. A specially trained doctor will insert the catheter into an artery in your groin. The catheter is guided by using a special type of X-ray (*fluoroscopy*) to the blood vessel being examined.
5. A special dye is then injected into the catheter and X-rays are taken. The dye helps to show where any narrowing or blockages are located in the heart arteries.

AFTER THE PROCEDURE

- After the procedure you will be kept in bed lying flat for several hours. You will be instructed to not bend or cross your legs.
- The groin insertion site will be watched and checked frequently.
- The pulse in your feet will be checked frequently.
- Additional blood tests, X-rays and an EKG may be done.
- You may stay in the hospital overnight for observation.

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 area where the catheter was inserted.
- An oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C) develops.

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