Arteriography

WHY IS THIS TEST DONE:
An arteriogram is an X-ray imaging test used by physicians to evaluate whether blood vessels (arteries) are narrowed, blocked, enlarged or malformed. (This procedure is also called an angiogram.)

WHAT TO EXPECT:
The patient will arrive at the hospital and enter at the main entrance. The patient will report in to register and review insurance. The patient should have a copy of the orders as a precaution. The patient will be brought back to the department where we will confirm the patient’s identity, explain the procedure, and review their history.

The physician inserts a thin tube (a catheter) into the body through an artery, most often in the groin area (upper leg). The catheter can be moved around into other arteries to allow the physician to evaluate them. To obtain the X-ray images, the physician injects dye (called contrast) through the catheter into the artery of interest. This allows the physician to see the arteries on live X-ray (fluoroscopy). Then the X-rays images (stills) are taken. After the catheter is removed, a bandage is applied to the catheter insertion site.

Some children experience a warming sensation from the contrast dye. Some may feel mild discomfort around the catheter insertion site for several days after the procedure.

The bandage must stay dry and in place for 48 hours. Your child should not take a bath or shower during that time. After 48 hours, you may remove the gauze and clear bandage; do not remove the Steri-Strips® (white strips). (Not all children will have Steri-Strips.) If the Steri-Strips have not fallen off after seven days, you may remove them.

While the bandage is still on, you may sponge bathe your child, taking care to keep the bandage dry and in place. After 48 hours, your child can resume bathing as usual. However, if your child has Steri-Strips, do not submerge the site in water (bath or pool) until they have fallen off.
Your child can resume activity such as school or day care. However, you should limit your child’s physical activity and particularly avoid contact sports such as football or rough playing for one week.

Contact us immediately if your child experiences any of the following:

- Fever higher than 101° Fahrenheit
- Increased pain, swelling or bruising at the groin site
- Change in color or temperature of the affected extremity
- Numbness, swelling or pain in the affected extremity

Monday through Friday, call EPCH Radiology Department at (915) 242-8510. After hours, you may call EPCH Emergency Department at (915) 298-5443.

Source: [http://www.chop.edu/service/radiology/interventional-radiology/arteriography.html](http://www.chop.edu/service/radiology/interventional-radiology/arteriography.html)

**HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?**
The exam itself will take between one to three hours. Patient needs to arrive 1 hour prior to the exam for any pre-testing necessary. Your child will be monitored for four to six hours in the recovery area. It is very important that your child keep the arm or leg that was punctured straight and still during that time. This will minimize the risk of bleeding at the site.

**PREPARATION:**
If the patient was given an order (prescription) for the exam, they must have that with them at the time of the exam. Patients should expect to receive instructions from radiology nurse 1 or 2 days prior to procedure. Please follow instructions exactly.

**PRECAUTIONS:**
To be discussed with the Pediatric Radiologist.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:**
Please notify your physician and the Imaging staff if you have any allergies, especially to local anesthetics such as lidocaine.

**MEDICATION ISSUES:**
Patient should avoid taking anti-inflammatory medication 24-48 hours prior to procedure (ex: Advil, Motrin, ibuprofen, Aleve, naproxyn, etc.), aspirin, plavix, coumadin, or any other blood thinners should be stopped prior to exam. Please be sure to discuss discontinuation or prescribed medications with your physician, they will tell you how many days prior to the procedure to discontinue you medications. Do not discontinue medications without consulting with your physician first.