

Outpatient arteriography

Your doctor has referred you for an outpatient angiography. An angiography refers to the imaging of blood vessels with contrast medium.

In most cases, the examination takes approximately one to three hours in addition to 2 to 6 hours of post treatment.

Please see the arrival instructions or appointment letter for contact information, if you have any questions about the examination.

Before the examination

If you are hypersensitive to local anaesthetics or iodine-bearing contrast medium, or you are or suspect you might be pregnant, please inform the referring doctor or the radiographer of this before the procedure.

- You must abstain from eating, drinking and smoking for at least 4 hours before the examination.
- Please shower on the morning of the examination.
- You may take your prescribed medication as usual.
If you are currently taking any blood thinning medication, or you take insulin for diabetes, the unit responsible for your care will give you separate instructions about your medication.
- Please bring something to eat with you.
- You should arrange that a friend or a relative will come and pick you up from the hospital after the examination. In addition, you should have someone with you at home until the morning following the examination.
- Please note that you cannot drive on the same day after the examination.
- In some cases, the treatment requires that you stay overnight at the hospital, so please be prepared for this.

During the examination

You will be provided with hospital clothing and premedication prior to the examination when necessary. In addition, an intravenous line will be inserted into your hand.

During the examination, you must lie on the examination table. The radiology staff will inform you of the progress of the examination.

In most cases, the study takes place under local anaesthesia via the femoral artery.

A catheter will be inserted into an artery and after the contrast medium is injected the x-rays are taken. The contrast medium may cause a feeling of heat.

During the examination a therapeutic procedure such as a balloon dilation or stent insertion may be performed.

After the examination

Once the examination is done, the hole made in the blood vessel will be closed. If necessary, the puncture location will be supported with a compression bag.

After the examination you will be confined to bed for 2–6 hours. It is also advisable to continue resting until the following morning. You may visit the bathroom.

Physical exertion should be avoided for four days. Sauna and bathing should be avoided for a week. However, you may take a shower on the following day after the procedure.

The radiology department will provide you with instructions regarding postoperative care.

After the examination, you may eat and drink normally according to your condition.

Should your treatment require that you stay in hospital, you will be arranged a bed in the hospital inpatient ward until the evening of the examination day, or for a longer period of time, if necessary.

The doctor in charge of your care will inform you of the results of the examination and of further treatment.

Other things to note

Please take your Kela-card or identification with you.

You will not be charged for the examination separately. Cancel the appointment if you cannot come. If you do not cancel, you will be charged a fine.