

Table of risks associated with cardiac catheterisation

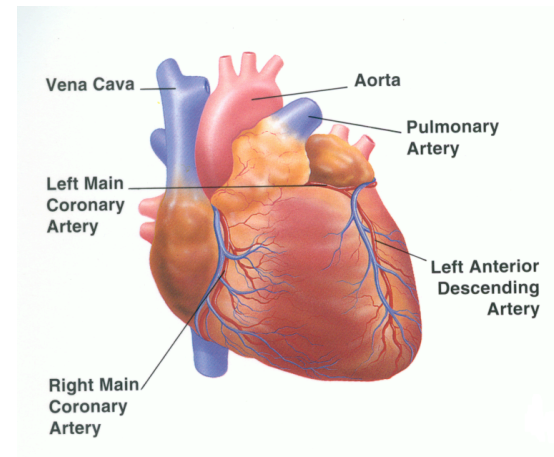
COMPLICATION	RISK
Death	1 in 833-1428
Stroke/mini-stroke (TIA)	1 in 400-714
Heart attack	1 in 625-1000
Abnormal Heart rhythm	1 in 250-454
Damage to the artery	1 in 400-588
Reaction to the dye	1 in 1000

*These risks are based on three separate audits totalling 38,845 patients, undergoing cardiac catheterisation, published in the journal of the British Cardiac Society between 1993 and 1999 and represent the worst possible statistics. As we select only the lowest risk patients to have angiography in our unit the risks are likely to be even lower than those quoted.

Do not sign your consent form unless you accept the risks involved. If you would like to know more information then the doctor will answer any questions.

If you have any questions then telephone the Cardiac Centre on 01225-824326

A patient's guide to cardiac catheterisation



Please read this leaflet and keep it in a safe place as it contains important information

Cardiac catheterisation (also known as coronary angiography) is an investigation performed under local anaesthetic, that enables us to see if there is any narrowing in your coronary arteries. It also allows us to look at the heart valves and see how well the heart is pumping. An informed decision can then be made on your treatment.

Preparation

You will need to have *nothing* to eat for 4 hours nor drink for 2 hours before the procedure. However you should take your usual heart tablets. If you usually take warfarin or the diabetic tablet metformin then you will have been advised when these tablets should be taken by the staff in the pre-admission clinic. Bring your usual medication with you on the day of the procedure.

The right groin should be shaved. About an hour before the procedure you will be asked to change into a gown. It is advisable to empty your bladder following which a nurse will give you a mild sedative to relax you.

Procedure

The procedure should take about 20 minutes. You will be taken into a room with a lot of X-Ray and monitoring equipment and quite a few members of staff. The doctor will place a small tube or sheath in the artery (and/or vein) in the groin (or wrist) after anaesthetising the area with local anaesthetic. Through this sheath other fine tubes (catheters) will be passed up to your heart under X-ray guidance. The X-Ray equipment will move around you and from time to time you will be asked to 'take a deep breath in and hold it' whilst the pictures are being taken.

Will I feel anything?

You will experience a slight pricking sensation and some stinging in the groin (wrist) when the local anaesthetic is administered. There should be little or no discomfort during the procedure, during which you will be asked to keep your arms above your head. The first injection, which is into the main pumping chamber of the heart, will make you feel hot and flushed and also give you the sensation that you have passed water (you will not do so!). You may also notice some fluttering in the chest. You are unlikely to notice the injections into the arteries.

After the procedure

Following the procedure you will be taken out to the recovery area. The tube in the groin will be removed and firm hand pressure applied to stop the bleeding. This usually takes 10 minutes. It is very important that you keep your head flat on the trolley and your leg still at this stage or you may end up with a bruise, or the artery may start bleeding again. To help the artery heal you need to lie flat for 1 hours followed by 1 ½ hours sitting. If there is further bleeding then press down in the groin and call for help. Do not panic! You will now be allowed some refreshment! You've earned it! You may like to bring something to read.

The doctor will come discuss the result of your cardiac catheterisation with you.

If all is well, you are able to go home after you have been mobile for an hour.

What do I do when I go home?

You must ensure that you have someone to take you home and someone to be with you overnight. **You must not drive yourself home nor should you drive for 48 hours.** It is not uncommon for a little bruising to appear once you have gone home. You may also feel a small lump – this too is a bruise. If the area becomes very painful or you notice any bleeding then you should seek the advice of your GP or phone the Cardiac Ward (01225-824444).

Are there any risks?

All medical investigations have some small risk. However it is important to remember that in general these risks are outweighed by the benefit of knowing what is wrong, so that an informed decision can be made on your treatment. Cardiac catheterisation does have some risks, i.e. possible complications, but these are all rare. These risks are listed in the table overleaf. Try not to be alarmed. If you wish to discuss these you should speak to the doctor carrying out your procedure.