

Angioplasty

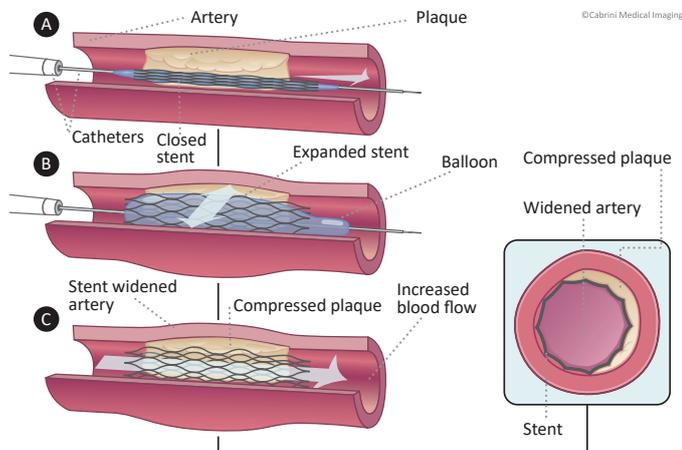
What is angioplasty?

Angioplasty refers to a procedure where x-rays are used along with an iodinated contrast injection to examine your arteries and the use of a small balloon to open any narrowing that may be present.

A small tube (catheter) is placed in one of your large arteries, usually in your groin and is moved through your arteries to the area of concern using an x-ray machine to guide it. At various times the doctor will inject some contrast, which may give you a hot feeling. When the right area is reached a small balloon will be inflated to open any narrowing found. A small metal tube called a stent may then be placed in the narrowing to help prevent it reforming.

The procedure usually takes around an hour or more to do and if you are going home you will be kept in the department for a minimum of two hours.

It is important you read the following information so that you will be able to consent to this procedure. If you have any further questions you will be given an opportunity to ask nursing or medical staff on the day.



Before you come in for the procedure

You will be contacted by the medical imaging department or by your referring doctor with a date and time for your procedure. You will be asked to go to the admissions department one hour prior to your appointment time, as you will be admitted to the hospital as a 'day case', or for an overnight stay.

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You will be given instructions by Cabrini Medical Imaging. Please take note of the following and contact the department on the number below if you have any concerns.

- Please tell the staff if you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you are on any blood thinning medication, please make sure you let staff know as soon as possible, as this could affect the ability to do your procedure. Please check with your GP or referring doctor if unsure of your medication.
- On the day of your procedure please bring a list of your current medications (this includes over the counter medications and herbal remedies)
- On the day of your procedure it is important that you bring any relevant x-rays
- Please make sure you have someone to drive you home (you are not permitted to drive until the following day)
- Please follow any fasting instructions you have been given

How your angioplasty will proceed

From the admission department, you will be taken to the medical imaging department where you will be prepared for your procedure and taken into the procedure room.

At this point you have an opportunity to ask the nursing staff further questions or to speak to the doctor performing the angioplasty. Otherwise you will be positioned on the table where the procedure is to take place. Once you are in position for the procedure it is very important that you remain still unless directed otherwise.

After washing your skin with antiseptic, a small amount of local anaesthetic will usually be injected under the skin in the relevant area. This usually stings for a moment. The doctor will then place the needle into the artery allowing insertion of the catheter or small tube.

Once the tube is inside the artery it will be guided to the correct part of your body where iodinated contrast will be injected through the catheter, thereby highlighting the arteries in that area. You may experience a hot flush and sometimes some discomfort to the area that the doctor is looking at. This will be of short duration.

When the doctor has taken all the pictures/x-rays required for the angiogram, they will remove the catheter. Should your procedure require an angioplasty or stenting, it is at this stage, prior to removing the catheter that the doctor will use a balloon and/or stent to open a narrowing in the vessel.

Once the catheter has been removed the small opening, which has been made in your artery, needs to be sealed. This will be done with either a closure device (like a small plug) or by one of the nursing staff applying pressure to the vessel. You will then need to rest in bed for at least a couple of hours to give the blood vessel time to heal.

As with all medical procedures there are associated risks and complications with having this procedure done, they can be broken down into common, rare and very rare.

Common risks and complications

- Discomfort to the area, following the injection. This maybe due to the tissues being aggravated by the procedure.
- Bleeding or bruising to the localised area

Rare risks and complications

- Infection, which could require additional treatment, possibly antibiotics
- Large amount of bruising to the area where the puncture to the artery was made
- The procedure may have to be abandoned due to technical or medical reasons
- Allergy to medications used during this procedure

Very rare risks and complications

- Extensive bleeding requiring medical intervention and additional hospitalisation
- Blocking or occluding of one or more of your arteries, requiring medical intervention and additional hospitalisation

How do I get my results?

Digital images are immediately available to your doctor and your records will be kept permanently. This occurs through a system called PACS. **If a priority report is requested it will be issued within two hours and faxed or emailed to your doctor, however this can sometimes take up to 24 hours.**

If your referring doctor wants to see you on the day of your examination, please advise the reception staff when you arrive for your appointment, so the appropriate information can be made available for you to take to your doctor.

Important

It is important to let us know when you make your booking if you are or think you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

It is important to bring with you your referral, previous x-rays and any other tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or I-MED).

Questions

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the number below.