

Radiology Department

Mesenteric Angiogram

Information for patients



This leaflet gives you further information that will add to the discussion you have with your doctor about the Mesenteric Angiogram procedure. It is important that you have enough information before you sign the consent form.

What is a Mesenteric Angiogram?

It is a special X-ray of the blood vessels (arteries) in the abdomen in order to show where the artery is blocked or bleeding. A special dye called contrast medium that shows up on X-ray is injected into your bloodstream to highlight the arteries of the intestine. This procedure is often carried out under general anaesthetic, usually as an emergency procedure.

What happens before the procedure?

We will ask you to change into a hospital gown and we will place a cannula in a vein in your hand or arm in case you need any medications during the test. A Mesenteric Angiogram is usually performed as an emergency procedure and if this is the case you may be too unwell to fully understand what is happening. Your clinical team will try to explain the procedure to you and your relatives as fully as possible.

What does the procedure involve?

This procedure is performed in the X-ray department by a doctor called a Radiologist. A small tube is placed into the artery at the top of your leg after an injection of local anaesthetic. This injection stings but then the area goes numb. The contrast medium is injected through the tube into your blood vessels, while continuous X-ray pictures are being taken. This may cause a brief hot sensation within your body which may feel strange but is not dangerous. The injection may also make you feel as though you have passed urine but this is not the case.

Once the procedure is completed the tube in the artery will be removed and either a special sealing device is placed in the vessel to seal the hole or the Radiologist or Nurse will press on the puncture site to stop any bleeding.

What happens after the procedure?

Again you may be too unwell to notice the care you are given after the procedure. You will need to remain on your back for a further 2 hours to let the puncture site at the top of your leg heal properly. The nurses will monitor your blood pressure, heart rate and puncture site for several hours for signs of bleeding. If you are well enough you may eat and drink 2 hours after the procedure and get up 4-6 hours afterwards.

What happens if the puncture site starts to bleed?

The staff caring for you afterwards will know what to do if the puncture site bleeds.

What are the risks?

Bruising at the puncture site is common but should disappear in a few days. Bleeding from the puncture site occurs infrequently. Rarely the blood vessel may be damaged and this may require surgery. The consenting doctor will explain any other rare complications before you have the procedure.

How to contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us on the telephone number at the top of your appointment letter.

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk**

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