



Coronary Angiogram

1. What is a coronary angiogram?

This procedure is performed to show any narrowing or blockage of your coronary arteries.

You will have the following procedure:
A needle with a tube connected to it will be put in your arm. This is called an intravenous line or IV.

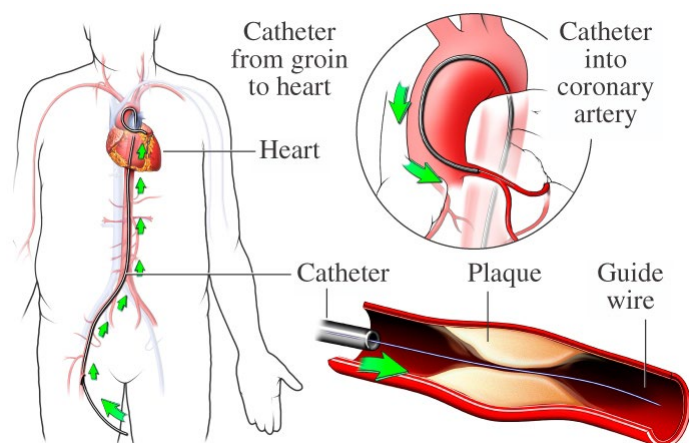
After an injection of local anaesthetic, a fine tube (catheter) is put into the artery in the groin/wrist. The tube is carefully passed into each coronary artery. A series of pictures are taken using x-rays and a contrast medium (x-ray dye).

The contrast medium is injected into the main pumping chamber of the heart (left ventricle). This is to measure the size of the heart and how well it is pumping.

You may also have an Intravascular Ultrasound (IVUS) or Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) which uses soundwaves or light to produce an image of the coronary arteries and to see their condition. This is done while the catheter is in the artery.

At the end of the procedure the artery may be closed with a special plug to stop the bleeding. Your Cardiologist will discuss this with you.

The doctor can then tell you which treatment is best for you. This may be a procedure called an Angioplasty (the arteries are widened using a small sausage-shaped balloon) or an operation such as a Coronary Artery Bypass Graft. Sometimes, medications alone may be a suitable option.



National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

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2. Anaesthetic

This procedure will require a local anaesthetic. Sedation may also be given.

3. What are the risks of this specific procedure?

In recommending this procedure your doctor has balanced the benefits and risks of the procedure against the benefits and risks of not proceeding. Your doctor believes there is a net benefit to you going ahead. This is a very complicated assessment. The risks are higher if you have had previous bypass surgery.

There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

Common risks and complications (more than 5%) include:

- Minor bruising at the puncture site.
- Major bruising or swelling at the groin/wrist puncture site.

Rare risks and complications (less than 1%) include:

- Abnormal heart rhythm that continues for a long time. This may need an electric shock to correct.
- Surgical repair of the groin/wrist puncture site or blood vessel.
- An allergic reaction to the x-ray dye.
- Loss of kidney function due to the side effects of the x-ray dye.
- A stroke. This can cause long term disability.
- Heart attack.
- Minor reaction to the x-ray dye such as hives.
- Need for emergency heart surgery or angioplasty.
- A higher lifetime risk of cancer from x-ray exposure.
- Death as a result of this procedure is rare.



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