



Arteriogram

Radiology

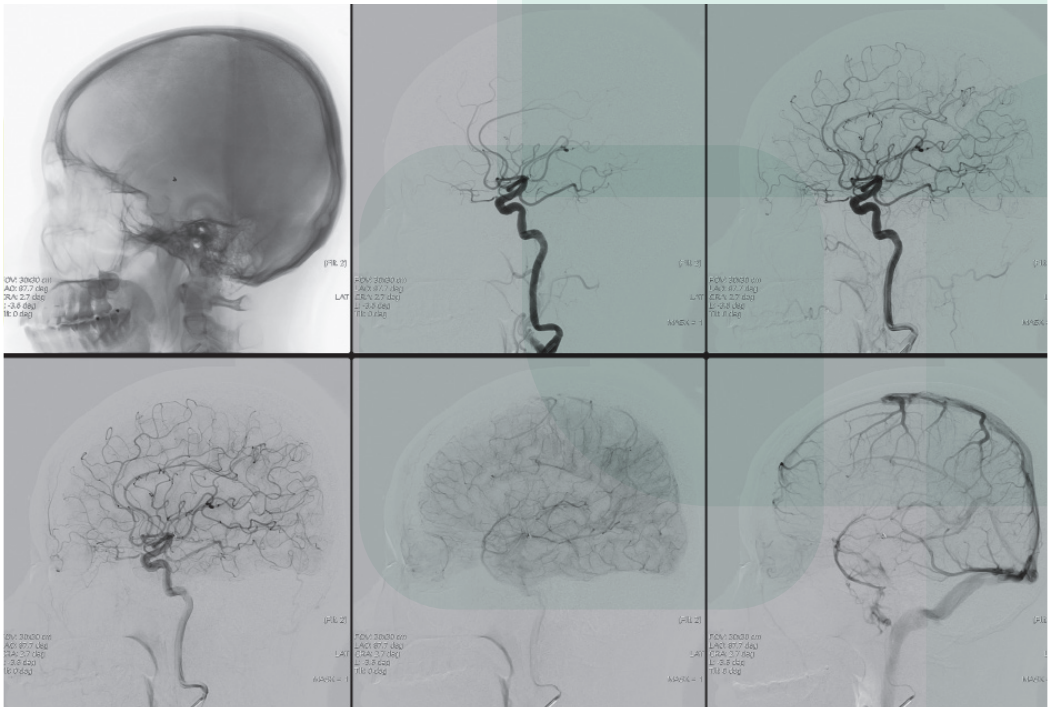


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In order to make our brochures easier to read, we always use the third person singular male "he", regardless of the gender of the subject of the sentence.

Arteriogram

An arteriogram is an X-ray examination in which blood vessels are filled with a contrast medium by means of a puncture or catheterisation at the level of - or as close as possible to - the artery to be examined.

For this examination, you will have an artery punctured in the armpit or groin. Despite the use of modern X-ray equipment and techniques, this is an invasive examination that must be performed with the utmost care.

The aim of this examination is to detect any abnormalities in the blood vessels in order to establish a diagnosis or to implement the appropriate treatment.

Possible abnormalities: complete obstruction or severe narrowing of the artery which slightly or severely jeopardizes the oxygen supply to the irrigated organ; malformation of the blood vessels or abnormal entanglement of the blood vessels; aneurysm (dilatation of the artery wall); damage to the blood vessels due to the presence of growths.

How does it work?

Hospitalization

Since an artery has to be punctured for this test, you will have to be hospitalized. Normally a day stay is enough, but you might need to stay in hospital for a longer period. The examination always takes place by appointment.

Preparation

You must fast for at least 4 hours before the examination.

You will be given an operating gown to put on. Please remove your own clothing and jewellery. An infusion will be inserted and blood will be taken to assess your coagulation in order to limit the risk of secon-

dary bleeding.

It is important that there be no residual contrast material in your body from previous examinations. Should there be any doubt about this, an X-ray of the abdomen will be performed first.

. In order to avoid allergic reactions to contrast media, we ask you to inform us of your possible allergic history.

You will be taken in your bed to the Radiology Department.

Radiology

The radiology nurse will accompany you to the examination room. Once there, you will lie down on a table. The examination is always performed in a sterile environment.

In an arteriogram, the access route for the puncture and introduction of the catheter is in the right or left groin, depending on the pulses. In some rare cases, if the pulses are insufficient in the groin region, the catheter can be placed in the armpit.

The area around the blood vessel to be punctured will be put under local anesthesia. Then the vessel will be pricked and a guide wire will be passed through the needle. Through this guide wire, the catheter will be moved to the desired blood vessel. Contrast material will then be injected into you.

X-ray pictures will be taken during the injection of the contrast material. This may cause a brief sensation of heat.

End of the examination

At the end of the examination, the catheter will be removed and the blood vessel compressed to stop any bleeding. A pressure dressing will then be applied. You will be taken back to your hospital ward in your own bed and will stay there for about five hours.

We advise you to drink enough water after the test so that your body can eliminate the contrast medium more quickly. As it is not known whether the iodine passes into your breast milk or not, we also advise



you to express and discard your milk for 24 hours after the examination.

We advise you not to drive yourself home after the test.

Possible risks

No invasive examination is without risk. Complications may always occur during or after an arteriogram. The advantages and disadvantages of this examination must be weighed up by the doctor and the radiologist.

Risks associated with the procedure

Secondary bleeding at the puncture site; damage to the blood vessel wall; infection of the puncture site; irritation or damage to a mistakenly punctured nerve.

Existing vessel damage may become complicated, resulting in partial or total occlusion of the vessel. This in turn can cause cold hands or cold feet, which may require surgery in the short to medium term. However, these complications are extremely rare.

During an examination of the vessels in the head and neck, occlusion of a blood vessel or the formation of a clot may result in a more serious stroke, with or without paralysis and/or loss of consciousness. In some extremely rare cases, this procedure can also be life-threatening.

Possible pregnancy

Since this imaging technique uses x-rays, an arteriogram should be avoided during pregnancy, especially early pregnancy.

It is therefore important that you report your possible pregnancy, whether confirmed or not.

Contrast media

The contrast media used here contain iodine, to which there exists a risk of hypersensitive or allergic reactions. These reactions cannot be predicted unless they have been noticed in previous tests.

The risk may be greater in patients with another known allergy such as

hay fever, eczema or allergic asthma. The allergic reaction may occur directly after taking a few drops. If you are aware of your iodine hypersensitivity or any other allergy of yours, it is essential that you inform your doctor or the radiologist.

An allergic reaction to a contrast medium usually takes the form of an itching, with red papules (resembling mosquito bites) or a swelling of the eyelids; in some rare cases, this can also be a severe reaction, such as an oedema in the throat or an allergic shock. Fortunately, serious allergic reactions have become rare with the use of new contrast media.

Your doctor, when filling in the examination request form, also has the opportunity to tick the relative or absolute contraindications to the administration of a contrast medium (e.g. allergy to iodine, severe renal insufficiency, Kahler's disease...).

Diabetes

If you are diabetic, you might be taking a drug which, in the case of kidney malfunction, may cause kidney damage when an iodine-containing contrast material is administered to you. Please consult your doctor about this. You may be asked to discontinue the use of this medicine temporarily.

Discomfort

The warm sensation experienced when the contrast material is injected will disappear after a few seconds.

Nausea has become rare with the use of newer products. Nevertheless, some patients may still suffer from it. This is one of the reasons why we ask you to fast for 4 hours before the examination.

Aftercare

When you return to the hospital ward, the nursing staff will regularly check the puncture site for bleeding. They will also measure your blood pressure regularly.

If the pressure bandage is uncomfortable, you can ask a member of the nursing staff to loosen it a little.

You may eat and drink directly after the examination. You should drink enough water to help your body eliminate the contrast material more quickly and naturally.

We also advise you not to drive yourself home after the examination.

Conclusion

Once the examination is complete, the radiologist will assess the pictures taken and pass on his conclusions to your doctor, who will keep you informed of the results.

The information contained in this leaflet is fairly general and describes the examination as it is usually performed. However, it is possible that the radiologist will opt for another procedure that better suits your particular situation. We cannot possibly list all the possible variants and alternatives in this leaflet. Risks and possible side effects are also mentioned as general information.

Should you still have questions or concerns after reading this information, please do not hesitate to ask your doctor or a member of the nursing staff. We will be glad to help you.

We will do our utmost to ensure that your examination runs smoothly and wish to thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Usefull contact details

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