

Angiogram, Fistulogram or Graftogram

What is an angiogram, fistulogram or graftogram?

This is a special x-ray that looks at the flow of blood through:

- a blood vessel (angiogram)
- a fistula (fistulogram)
- a graft (graftogram)

This test shows any narrow areas or blocks. A narrow area or block may cause the fistula or graft to stop working.

Why is this done?

Some of the reasons for having this test are:

- Your fistula is not maturing and cannot be used for hemodialysis.
- You have problems with needling before each dialysis treatment.
- Your doctor is concerned that you are not getting adequate dialysis.
- Your Access Flow Monitoring or Transonic Measurement test is too low.
- Your fistula or graft is bleeding longer than it usually does several dialysis treatments in a row.
- This test is also done after a fistula or graft has been de-clotted to see if the blood vessels are open and clear.

Before this special x-ray:

- **If you have an allergy to contrast dye, contact your primary care nurse or nephrologist before the procedure.**
- You can take all of your medications and eat normally before this test.
- If you need a translator or help, bring this person with you.
- On the day of the procedure, report to the Angio/Interventional Suites Reception St. Joseph's Hospital ½ hour before your appointment time.
- Before the test, the radiologist explains the procedure to you. You then sign a consent form.

Turn over →

During this test:

- You lie flat on the x-ray table. Staff is always with you.
- Your skin is cleaned and a small needle put in.
- The dye is injected into the needle. You may feel a warm sensation in your arm for a few seconds. The dye allows the doctor to see the blood moving through the blood vessels, fistula or graft.
- Pictures are taken using a special camera for the doctor to look at later.
- The needle is taken out when all of the pictures are done.

After this special x-ray:

- You go home after the test.

Follow-up:

- If you are **not** a hemodialysis patient, you will be seen in the Vascular Access Clinic within 1 month.
- If you **are** a hemodialysis patient, your nephrologist, primary care nurse or vascular access nurse will talk to you about your results at your next visit.