

**Please report to the  
Day Surgery Department**

**Level 1, Bishop Dowling Wing, Charlton Campus.**

**Please allow time for parking**

- Please arrive 1 hour prior to your appointment
- Do not eat or drink for 6 before your appointment
- Bring a list of all your current medications
- Stop taking your blood thinners 5 days before your appointment
- Take all of your heart / blood pressure medications
- If you are diabetic, take all of your meds with a light meal
- Have a responsible person accompany you and drive you home
- Have a responsible person stay overnight with you

St. Joseph's  
Healthcare  Hamilton

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Healthcare  Hamilton

Department of  
Diagnostic Imaging  
Interventional Radiology

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**What you need to  
know about  
Angiograms**

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**What is an angiogram?**

An angiogram is a series of x-rays used to look at the flow of blood through the blood vessels and organs in the body. Arteries are the blood vessels that deliver oxygen rich blood from the heart to the body. Local anaesthetic is injected into the skin in the groin area, over the hip to numb the area. Occasionally, the catheter is introduced into an artery in the arm rather than the groin. A small flexible tube called a catheter is placed in the artery. X-ray dye or contrast is injected into the artery and x-rays are taken to get a good view of the blood flow or circulation. This is the same dye that is used in CT scans. Once the doctor has reviewed the x-rays, the catheter will be removed and the doctor will press on the site for 10 minutes to stop the bleeding.

**Why do I need this test?**

This test will give your doctor information that will help with your diagnosis and planning of your care.

**Where will the angiogram be done?**

The angiogram will be done in the angio suite by a specially trained doctor called an interventional radiologist. Our team consists of doctors, nurses and medical radiation technologists.

**How do I get ready for the angiogram?**

Do not have anything to eat or drink 6 hours before your test. Please take all of your meds except blood thinners with a small sip of water, especially heart and blood pressure pills. If you have had a previous allergic reaction to x-ray dye, please let your doctor know. Your doctor may order a medication for you to take before the procedure.

If you are diabetic, do everything that you would normally do. Do not take Metformin.

When you arrive in the Day Surgery department, a nurse will get you ready for the angiogram. An intravenous (iv) will be placed in your arm. You will be asked about your medical history and any medications that you are taking. You will have to change into a hospital gown for this test. The Radiologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions that you may have. If you agree to the test, you will be asked to sign a consent form.

**How long will the angiogram take?**

An angiogram can take from 1 to 2 hours. You can expect to be in the hospital for about 5 hours.

**What will happen after the angiogram is finished?**

You will be taken back to the Day Surgery department where you will rest quietly in bed for 4 hours. Your vital signs will be monitored frequently. Once this time period is over, you will be discharged home. You MUST have a responsible adult accompany you home and stay with you overnight. You will not be allowed to drive for 24 hours following the angiogram.

**What are the risks and complications from an angiogram?**

Complications are unusual and usually minor. Possible risks /complications of having an angiogram are bleeding, infection, damage to the blood vessel and allergic reaction to the x-ray dye. Every precaution is taken to prevent these from happening. On rare occasions, severe complications may require an operation to repair any damage caused to the blood vessels.