

Angiogram / Angioplasty

As you are aware you have undergone a procedure called angiogram/angioplasty.

Angiogram

This involves a needle usually being placed into your femoral artery (groin). Dye is then injected into the artery and x-rays are taken which will identify any abnormalities.

Angioplasty

If a narrowing in an artery is found a balloon can be passed into the artery until it reaches the area of narrowing. The balloon is then inflated, dilating the area of narrowing.

If you have had a stent inserted

A stent is a tiny expandable metal tube that is inserted into the newly opened area of the artery to help keep the artery open

Not everybody has a stent inserted. A stent might only be inserted if the artery does not stay open after the angioplasty.

Following angiography/angioplasty/stenting:

You may notice bruising or a lump at the needle puncture site. This is normal you, You should not be concerned, unless the lump develops increasing pain or is enlarging, in which case, contact your Doctor immediately.

Closure Device

A closure device is sometimes used to close the puncture wound in your groin:

- If your surgeon used a closure device for your puncture wound, you will be given a specific information card regarding the type of device used and how to take care of the puncture site.
- A closure device may leave a small knot or lump under the skin where the closure device is situated this is normal. The knot will gradually disappear over a few weeks

On return to the ward

On return to the ward you must remain in bed until you are told you can get up (at least 4 hours). Please ring your buzzer if you require any assistance.

Do not get out of bed unless advised to do so.

Post-operative care instructions

- Keep the puncture site clean and dry
- No strenuous activity, lifting or driving a car for 2 days
- Specific instructions in regard to when you can return to work and normal activities will be given to you by your doctor

Medications

- Continue your normal medication unless instructed by your doctor
- If you have a stent inserted, your Doctor may advise you to take anti-platelet medication, such as aspirin or clopidogrel (Plavix/Iscover)

On discharge

You will be given post-operative instructions. Please read them carefully prior to discharge and any questions can then be answered before you leave.

Complications

A small bruise at the puncture site is normal. Please contact your doctor or emergency department if you experience any of the following:

- Unusual pain, redness, swelling numbness or discomfort in the groin or affected limb
- Temperature change or bleeding
- Feeling of faintness
- Weakness
- Fever
- Chest pain or shortness of breath, nausea, profuse sweating, dizziness, and or fainting.
- For anything that causes you undue concern, contact St Vincent's Switchboard on (02) 6627 9600

You have had an angiogram which involves a puncture wound to your groin.

