

Angiogram/Fistulogram and Angioplasty of Your AV Fistula or Graft

What is an angiogram/fistulogram?

An angiogram/fistulogram is an x-ray/imaging device used to look inside your dialysis access. It's done to look for any narrowing or blockage in the dialysis access. Dye may be used in this procedure so please inform the surgery scheduler, nurse, or surgeon prior to the procedure.

Why do I need an angiogram/fistulogram?

You may need this procedure because:

- There is less blood flow to your access
- You're having problems with your dialysis treatments because of your access
- You're having symptoms that may be caused by your access.

Before the procedure:

- You may be given an order for labs-you should give the order to dialysis unit to see if they are able to do these labs prior to your procedure OR you will be instructed to have labs done the morning of your procedure.
- You may be given a rx or one may be called in to your pharmacy for Ativan. This will be filled and brought to your procedure. DO NOT TAKE THIS before arriving to our office. If you are NOT given a rx or a rx was not called in for you-you will be provided with the Ativan the day of the procedure by a member of our surgical team.

The day of the procedure

- Tell the nurse or doctor if you have any allergies to medications or IV contrast dye.
- Follow the instructions given to you by the surgery scheduler or CVI nurse
- Have someone drive you home after your procedure.

During the procedure

- A long, narrow catheter will be put into your access.
- Contrast dye will be added into the catheter. You may feel a brief warm, flushed sensation in the area when the dye is added (infused).
- Imaging process will begin

What if I need an angioplasty?

- An angioplasty is a way to FIX a blood vessel that has become narrow.
- If you need an angioplasty, an inflatable balloon will be inserted through the catheter.
- The balloon is inflated where the narrowing is
- You may feel some discomfort when the balloon is inflated
- The angioplasty usually takes about an hour
- One stitch may be placed at the insertion site.
- The stitch can be taken out at your next dialysis treatment or your followup appointment with your surgeon.

What happens after the procedure?

- You will be monitored here at the office for a short while
- You will need to lay quietly with your arm straight
- Do NOT do anything strenuous with your arm for the rest of the day, like vacuum.

*****IF YOU HAVE ANY EXCESSIVE BLEEDING FROM YOUR ACCESS SITE THAT WILL NOT STOP, APPLY PRESSURE TO THE ACCESS SITE AND GO TO THE NEAREST EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT.**