

Patient information

Information about your angioplasty examination



If you cannot for any reason keep this appointment please telephone 01284 712573 which is a direct line into the department. This will avoid undue delay and will help us to keep our waiting list as short as possible

What is angioplasty?

Angioplasty is a way of relieving a narrowing or blockage in an artery, without having an operation. A fine plastic tube, called a catheter, is inserted and pushed through the blockage in the artery, and a special balloon on the catheter is then inflated, to open up the blockage and allow more blood to flow through it.

Who has made the decision?

The consultant in charge of your case, and the radiologist doing the angioplasty, will have discussed the situation, and feel that this is the best treatment option however, you will also have the opportunity for your opinion to be taken into account, and if, after discussion with your doctors, you do not want the procedure carried out, you can decide against it.

Who will be doing the angioplasty?

A specially trained doctor called a radiologist. Radiologists have special expertise in using x-ray and scanning equipment, and also in interpreting the images produced. They will look at these images while carrying out the procedure.

Where will the procedure take place?

In the Radiology / X-ray department.

How do I prepare for an angioplasty?

Please use the enclosed blood test form to have a blood test either at your surgery or the hospital. Ideally this should be done 7 days before your angioplasty examination. Continue to take 75mgs of aspirin daily (if prescribed).

On the day of the examination **please eat normally until 4 hours prior to your procedure. Eat nothing further but please continue to drink, this is very important.** Please bring any medication you are taking with you.

If you have someone with you at home overnight you will usually be able to go home the same day.

Prior to your examination the Radiologist will see you and explain the procedure in greater detail. You will then be asked to sign a consent form. If you have any allergies, you **must** let your doctor know. If you have previously reacted to intravenous contrast medium (the dye used for kidney x-rays and CT scanning), then you **must** also tell your doctor about this.

When you arrive

Please check your appointment letter to see what time you should attend the specified ward / department.

What actually happens during an angioplasty?

You will lie on the x-ray table, generally flat on your back. You will have a needle (cannula) put into your hand or arm for this procedure. You will have a monitoring device attached to your arm and finger, and may be given oxygen through small tubes in your nose.

The radiologist and nurse will keep everything as sterile as possible, and will wear a theatre gown and operating gloves. The skin near the point of insertion, usually the groin, will be cleaned with antiseptic, and then the rest of your body will be covered with a theatre towel.

The skin and deeper tissues over the artery will be numbed with local anaesthetic, and then a needle will be inserted into the artery. Once the radiologist is satisfied that this is correctly positioned, a guide wire is placed through the needle, and into the artery. The needle is then withdrawn, allowing the fine, plastic tube called a catheter to be placed over the wire and into the artery.

The radiologist uses the x-ray equipment to make sure that the catheter and the wire are moved into the right position, so that they pass into the narrowed area, and the balloon is then inflated. This may need to be done several times in order for the narrowed area to open up sufficiently to improve the blood flow.

The radiologist will check it's progress by injecting contrast medium down the catheter to show how much the narrowed artery has opened up. When he or she is satisfied that a good result has been obtained, the balloon and the catheter are removed. The radiologist will then press firmly on the skin entry point for at least 10 minutes, to prevent any bleeding.

The West Suffolk Hospital is a teaching Hospital and as part of their training it is necessary for students to observe examinations. If you do not wish for an observer to be present please tell the receptionist on arrival.

Will it hurt?

Some discomfort may be felt in the skin and deeper tissues during injection of the local anaesthetic. After this, the procedure should not be painful. There will be a nurse, or another member of clinical staff, standing close by and looking after you. If the procedure does become uncomfortable for you please tell them.

As the dye, or contrast medium, passes around your body, you may get a warm feeling, which some people can find a little unpleasant, however, this soon passes.

How long will it take?

Every patient's situation is different, and it is not always easy to predict how complex or how straightforward the procedure will be. Generally, the procedure will last approximately half an hour. As a guide, expect to be in the x-ray department for about an hour and a half altogether.

What happens afterwards?

You will be taken back to your ward on your bed. Nurses on the ward will carry out routine observations, such as taking your pulse and blood pressure, to make sure that there are no problems. They will also look at the skin entry point to make sure there is no bleeding from it. You will stay in bed for 4 hours, until you have recovered. You may be allowed home on the same day or kept in hospital overnight, so please bring an overnight bag, and any medication you will need for the 24 hours that you will be at the hospital. Be sure to keep all your medication in your possession. If your procedure is carried out early in the morning you may be able to go home after 4 to 5 hours, if there are no complications.

You will need to have someone in your home with you overnight. Please inform the x-ray department if this is not possible.

Some patients may be given aspirin or clopidogrel to improve blood flow in their arteries, and to try and limit the chance of a similar condition occurring again.

Are there any risks or complications?

Angioplasty is a very safe procedure, but there are some risks and complications that can arise. There may be a bruise around the site where the needle has been inserted and this is quite normal. Very rarely, damage can be caused to the artery by the catheter, or the balloon, and this may need to be treated by surgery or another radiological procedure.

Sometimes it is not possible to manoeuvre the wire through the blockage, and occasionally despite inflating the balloon several times, the narrowing may be severe that it does not open up as much as anticipated.

Despite these possible complications, the procedure is normally very safe, and is carried out with no significant side-effects at all.

Finally ...

Some of your questions should have been answered by this leaflet, but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you. Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure, before you sign the consent form.

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This leaflet has been prepared from guidance given by the British Society of Interventional Radiology. For the most up to date advice please visit:

<https://www.bsir.org/patients/patient-information-leaflets>

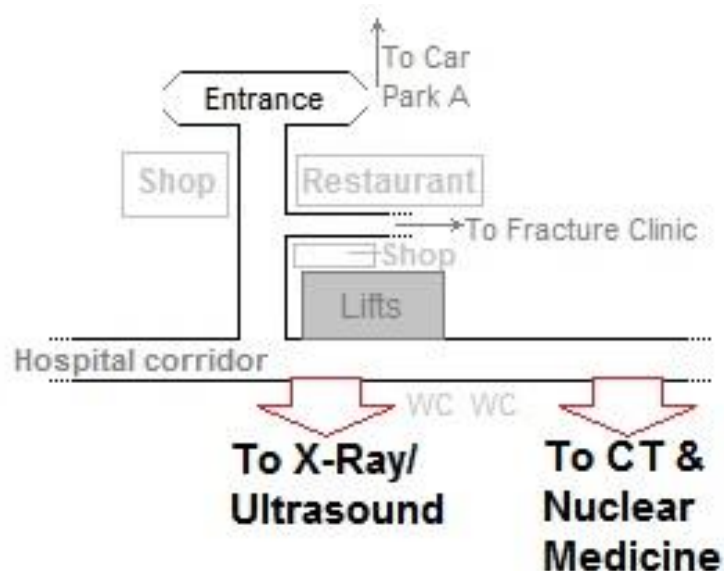
It is not advisable to bring children with you for this appointment as legally staff cannot look after them.

Hospital transport

Transport has **not** been booked. If you are eligible for transport or have any queries regarding transport eligibility, please contact the E-zec booking office on **0300 999 6666**.

Please note: The hospital is not responsible for any lost or stolen valuables. Please leave all jewellery at home, including body piercing ornaments and rings if possible. Wedding rings need not be removed.

Directions to X-ray and ultrasound department



Car parking for patients / visitors is available in car park A at the front of the hospital (the first car park to the right as you enter the site), and car park D at the rear of the site near the MRI and Macmillan Units.

West Suffolk Hospital operates a number plate recognition system for all vehicles entering the site. When ready to leave, please visit one of the pay stations on site. Enter your vehicle registration number and pay the required fee. The exit barriers will recognise the vehicle registration and that the parking has been paid for, and will open automatically. Please check the hospital website (www.wsh.nhs.uk) for further information on car parking, fees, exemptions and penalties.

Please allow plenty of time to park before your appointment as the car parks are continuously busy throughout the day.

Feedback

Please tell us about your experience in the Radiology Department following your appointment:

Email: imaging.comments@wsh.nhs.uk

Or complete our online survey using this weblink:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TT7J2H2>

Your opinions help shape the department for future patients.

X-rays and pregnancy

Because of the potential risks to an unborn child we need to know, for certain examinations, if there is any possibility of a patient being pregnant.

All patients between the ages of 12 years and 54 years of age will be asked if there is the possibility of pregnancy.

Discussion will be carried out in private and in confidence.

Teaching

The West Suffolk Hospital is a teaching hospital and as part of their training it is necessary for students to observe examinations. If you do not wish for an observer to be present please tell the receptionist on arrival.

Data protection information

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust will manage your information in line with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679. The information you provide will be retained for the purposes of your healthcare. The information will be retained in line with the *NHS Records Management Code of Practice for Health & Social care*.

You have rights in relation to the way we process your information. If you no longer want us to use your information for the purposes specified above; if you want to request to have your information erased or rectified, please contact the Information Governance team on 01284 712781.

We will review all requests in relation to your rights under GDPR, along with our responsibilities for record keeping.

Images may be used for research purposes as well as teaching. Patients must inform a member of staff if they do not consent to this.

As part of a shared service agreement with other NHS organisations, your radiology images and records may be shared with these other organisations as part of determining and providing your care. If you would like to know more about the extent of this sharing, or you wish us not to share at all with another organisation, or have any other concerns about it, please contact a member of staff.

For further information please contact

Diagnostic Imaging Department, West Suffolk Hospital NHS Foundation Trust,
Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 2QZ

Tel: 01284 712573