



Cardiac catheterisation

Information for patients from the East Kent Cardiac Catheter Suites

What is cardiac catheterisation?

Cardiac catheterisation (also known as coronary angiography) is an investigation performed under local anaesthetic that enables us to see if there is a narrowing in your coronary arteries. It also allows us to look at your heart valves and see how well your heart is pumping. An informed decision can then be made on your treatment.

How should I prepare for the procedure?

If you usually take warfarin then you will have been advised to contact the unit for further instructions. Bring your usual medication with you on the day of your procedure, and eat and drink as normal.

What will happen during my procedure?

You will be taken into a room with a lot of x-ray and monitoring equipment and quite a few members of staff. The doctor will place a small tube (sheath) into the artery (and/or vein) in your groin or in your wrist, after anaesthetising (numbing) the area with local anaesthetic. Through this sheath other fine tubes (catheters) will be passed up to your heart under x-ray guidance. The x-ray equipment will move around you and from time to time you may be asked to 'take a deep breath in and hold it' whilst the pictures are being taken.

Will I feel anything?

You will experience a slight pricking sensation and some stinging in your groin/wrist when the local anaesthetic is given. There should be little or no discomfort during the procedure.

When dye is injected into the main pumping chamber of your heart, you may feel hot and flushed; you may notice some fluttering in your chest or feel as though you have passed water.

You are unlikely to notice the dye injections into the coronary arteries.



What happens after my procedure?

Following your procedure you will be taken to the recovery area. You will have a pressure pad on your wrist, which will be slowly released before your discharge from hospital. If you have a tube in your groin, it will be removed and firm pressure applied to stop the bleeding. This usually takes about 10 minutes.

It is important that you keep your head flat on the trolley and your leg still at this stage or you may end up with a bruise or the artery may start to bleed again.

How long will I be in hospital?

The procedure takes approximately 40 minutes.

We try and do the procedure via your right wrist, where you will sit up immediately after your procedure and go home one and a half hours later. If the procedure is performed via your groin your recovery will be about three hours.

Coffee/tea and biscuits are provided after your procedure. You may like to bring something to read.

When will I receive my results?

The doctor will come and discuss the results of your cardiac catheterisation with you before you go home.

What do I do when I get home?

It is not uncommon for a little bruising to appear once you have gone home. If the area becomes very painful or you notice any bleeding or swelling you should telephone the **Cardiac Catheter Suite** on 01233 61 68 30 (William Harvey Hospital, Ashford) or 01843 23 43 15 (Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Margate).

After 6pm ring the **Coronary Care Unit** on 01233 61 61 15 (William Harvey Hospital) or 01843 23 45 79 (Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital).

When can I drive again?

You must not drive yourself home from hospital, nor should you drive for 48 hours.

Are there any risks?

All medical investigations have some small risk. However, it is important to remember that in general these risks are outweighed by the benefit of knowing what is wrong so that an informed decision can be made about any future treatment.

Cardiac catheterisation does have some small risks, such as possible complications, but these are all rare. The risks of the procedure will be explained by the doctor before you sign your consent form and you should not sign until you have had these risks explained to you. Do not sign the consent form unless you accept the risks involved. Remember you can withdraw your consent for treatment at any time.

Please remember to bring to hospital

- Your usual medication
- Your dressing gown and slippers
- Someone to take you home.

This is a mixed sex unit. We tailor our care to meet the needs of our patients. If you have any specific requests then please do not hesitate to ask.

What if I have any further questions or concerns?

If you have any questions or concerns, please telephone one of the following **Cardiac Catheter Suites** and speak to a member of staff.

- William Harvey Hospital, Ashford
Telephone: 01233 61 68 30
- Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital, Margate
Telephone: 01843 23 43 15

This leaflet has been produced with and for patients

If you would like this information in **another language, audio, Braille, Easy Read, or large print** please ask a member of staff. You can ask someone to contact us on your behalf.

Any complaints, comments, concerns, or compliments please speak to your doctor or nurse, or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01227 78 31 45, or email ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net

Patients should not bring in large sums of money or valuables into hospital. Please note that East Kent Hospitals accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to personal property, unless the property had been handed in to Trust staff for safe-keeping.

Further patient leaflets are available via the East Kent Hospitals web site www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patientinformation