

Angioplasty

What is an angioplasty?

An angioplasty is a procedure in which a balloon is expanded in a narrowed blood vessel, stretching the walls of the vessel to restore normal blood flow. A procedure called an arteriogram (an x-ray of the blood vessel) will be performed prior to your angioplasty to pinpoint the exact area for treatment with the balloon.

Preparation

You should drink plenty of fluids before arriving for your appointment. Your groin will be shaved prior to the procedure.

Procedure

You will need to lie flat. Local anaesthetic will numb the area. A needle will be put into the artery followed by a sheath, through which various catheters and wires will be deployed.

Contrast medium will be used quite frequently to monitor progress.

You may wish to have sedation, however the procedure is not painful.

What happens after angioplasty?

You may be required to stay in the hospital overnight for observation. You should keep the arm or leg, where the plastic tube was inserted, straight for several hours after angioplasty. Drink plenty of fluids. Your doctor will advise on medication to prevent clots in the dilated artery.

A lump in the groin is common and may be somewhat painful for two days following the procedure.

How long will the procedure take?

Normally this procedure is completed within 2 hours.

Please bring any previous x-rays with you on the day of your examination.