

## ◆ WHAT IS AN ARTERIOGRAM?

- ◆ An arteriogram is a special test performed by a radiologist in the Radiology Department. The skin area over the artery in the groin or arm is numbed with a local anesthetic. The radiologist then makes a puncture through the skin into the artery. A thin tube, called a catheter, is passed into the artery of study. Contrast media, a clear liquid that can be seen by x-ray, is inserted through the catheter. A computer assists in producing an x-ray image of the blood vessels. During the filming, you will be asked to hold very still so the pictures will turn out clear. Special breathing instructions may be given and you may be asked to not swallow or cough. The contrast causes a warm feeling in the body. This feeling may only last a few seconds. The contrast is removed by the body through the kidneys.
- ◆ You will be awake for the test and be positioned on your back. This test should not cause discomfort. However, if you think you will need medication for pain control or relaxation, please let the radiologist know before the test. This medication would be given by the radiology nurse during the test.

The test takes approximately 1-2 hours. You will be returned directly to your room after the test.

## ◆ SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ You may have had IV contrast before. It is used for kidney/bladder studies, CT scans, myelograms (study of the spine), heart catheterizations, and studies of the blood vessels.
- ◆ If you have ever had an **ALLERGIC REACTION TO IV CONTRAST** (i.e., hives, swelling, difficulty breathing), please let your nurse or doctor know. You will need special medication the day before your test.
- ◆ If you are **DIABETIC** and take **INSULIN**, check with your doctor about adjusting your dosage to your diet restriction. If you take the drug **GLUCOPHAGE**, check with your doctor about stopping this drug after your test.

## ◆ PREPARATION FOR THE ARTERIOGRAM?

- ◆ This test requires admission to the hospital. A nurse will prepare you for the arteriogram. The nurse will shave your groin or arm area, and an intravenous line (IV) will be started. Blood tests are done before your arteriogram to show how fast your blood clots and how well your kidneys are working.
- ◆ Shower or bathe the night before or morning of your test, with special attention to cleansing your groin area.
- ◆ Do not eat any food after midnight on the night before your test. You will be allowed to drink clear liquids up to 2 hours before your test.
- ◆ You will be allowed to take your daily medication, except blood thinners, with a sip of water. Check with your doctor regarding other medications.
- ◆ Please remove any jewelry, nail polish/artificial nails, or hairpins before leaving your room. These will interfere with the test.
- ◆ You will be transported on a cart to the Radiology Department by the hospital transporters. Family members/significant others are welcome to accompany you to the Radiology Department.
- ◆ The radiologist will explain the arteriogram to you in detail and you will be given time to ask any questions. You will need to read and sign a consent.
- ◆ If you wear glasses, dentures, or a hearing aid, please wear them to the Radiology Department.

## ◆ AFTER THE ARTERIOGRAM

- ◆ The catheter is removed and pressure is applied over the punctured artery for approximately 10-15 minutes. A Band-Aid is placed over the puncture site.

- ◆ You will be required to stay in bed for approximately six hours, to allow the punctured artery to heal before you move. You will need to use a bedpan or urinal during this time. You will not be allowed out of bed.
- ◆ Your nurse will be checking your blood pressure, foot pulses, and puncture site often for the next few hours.
- ◆ Unless you are going to surgery you will be allowed to eat and drink. Drinking extra fluids for the remainder of the day is encouraged to help flush the contrast out of your system.
- ◆ Your doctor will discuss the results of your test with you.

- ◆ If you have any questions please call the:

**Radiology Department at  
Marquette General Hospital  
(906) 225-3540 or 1-800-562-9753, ext. 3540.**

Additional health information is available through the MGH Health Information Center

(906) 225-4950 or 1-800-562-9753, ext. 4950.