



CORONARY ANGIOGRAPHY & CARDIAC CATHETERISATION

INFORMATION SHEET AND CONSENT FORM

A. CONDITION AND PROCEDURE

Fat (cholesterol) and calcium can build up in the arteries like rust in old pipes. It can stop the flow of blood to the heart. This can cause angina or heart attack. This procedure is performed to show up the amount of disease in the coronary arteries, the blood vessels that supply the heart with blood.

Coronary angiography and cardiac catheterisation is performed to help with diagnosis. This helps to determine the seriousness and extent of coronary artery clogging, and to determine the likely benefit from treatments including angioplasty or bypass surgery. Having an angiogram involves taking a special X-ray of your coronary arteries to see where and how badly they are clogged. The angiogram also shows how well the heart is pumping. Coronary angiography and cardiac catheterisation provides extremely important information about your heart. However, it involves greater risks than most other diagnostic tests used to study the heart. Complications of cardiac catheterisation are rare, but they can be life-threatening.

After an injection of local anaesthetic, a fine tube (catheter) is put into the artery in the groin. The tube is carefully passed into each coronary artery in turn. A series of video pictures are taken using x-rays and a contrast medium (x-ray dye). These pictures give us a map of the coronary arteries. This helps us to find out whether you have any narrowing or blockage of your coronary arteries. The contrast medium may be injected into the main pumping chamber of the heart (left ventricle). This is to measure the size of the heart and how well it is pumping.

We can then tell you which treatment is best for you. This may be an operation such as a coronary by-pass or a procedure called an angioplasty (the arteries are widened using a small sausage shaped balloon). Sometimes, drugs alone may be a suitable option.

B. RISKS OF THE PROCEDURE

The risks of coronary angiography depends on: how bad your coronary artery disease is, how well your heart is pumping, how old you are, your general health, how healthy your organs are, and is higher if you have had previous bypass surgery. These are some of the more serious risks that can happen, but are not the only risks:

Less than 1 in 10,000 people

- (a) Skin injury from radiation, causing reddening of the skin.

1 in 1000 people

- (b) A stroke. This can cause paralysis and long term disability.
- (c) Heart attack.
- (d) A dangerous reaction to the x-ray contrast medium (dye). If this happens, you may have severe reactions such as asthma, shock and convulsions. Death in extremely rare cases about 1 in 250,000 to 400,000 injections.
- (e) Need for major surgery to the leg at the puncture site.
- (f) Need for emergency heart surgery or angioplasty.
- (g) A higher lifetime risk from x-ray exposure.
- (h) Death.

1 in 100 people

- (i) The heart may not beat in a proper rhythm which will need urgent treatment.
- (j) Surgical repair of the groin puncture site. This may need a longer stay in hospital.
- (k) Minor reaction to contrast medium such as hives.
- (l) Impairment of kidney function due to the contrast medium.
- (m) An infection around the hole in your artery. This usually can be treated with antibiotics.
- (n) Nerve injury at site of catheter insertion.

1 in 20 people

- (o) Major bruising or swelling at the groin puncture site.

Most people

- (p) Minor bruising.



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PUTTING THE RISKS IN PERSPECTIVE

Keep in mind that cardiac catheterisation is a common procedure, and the complications that people generally experience are relatively minor, such as a bruise. Serious complications are rare, occurring in less than 2% of procedures, and are more likely to occur in people who are critically ill or elderly. As with any test, the possible benefits of the test have to be weighed against the risks. You should discuss the risks in your case thoroughly with your doctor before having this test.

Please ask about anything you do not understand. We want you to be as informed as possible about this procedure.

U.R. No _____ (Attach patient label if applicable)

SURNAME _____

GIVEN NAMES _____

D.O.B. _____ SEX **M / F** (Please circle)

GP _____

PATIENT'S STATEMENT

I acknowledge that the doctor has explained my medical condition and the proposed procedure. I understand the risks of the procedure, the anaesthetic including the risks that are specific to me, and the likely outcomes. The doctor has explained other relevant treatment options and their risks. The doctor has explained my prognosis and the risks of not having the procedure.

I was able to ask questions and raise concerns with the doctor about my condition, the procedure and its risks, and my treatment options. I was given a copy of the Coronary Angiography & Cardiac Catheterisation Information Sheet and Consent Form to read. My questions and concerns have been discussed and answered to my satisfaction. I understand that in the unlikely event of complications, I may require a blood transfusion, an additional procedure or surgery.

The doctor has explained to me that if immediate life-threatening events happen during the procedure, they will be treated accordingly. I understand that no guarantee has been made that the procedure will improve the condition.

On the basis of the above statements, **I REQUEST TO HAVE THE PROCEDURE.**

SIGNATURE _____ DATE / /

D. DOCTOR'S STATEMENT

I have explained the patient's condition, the need for treatment, consequences of not having the treatment, the procedure and the risks, relevant treatment options and their risks, likely consequences if those risks occur, the significant risks and problems specific to this patient. I have given the patient an opportunity to ask questions about any of the above matters and raise any other concerns which I have answered as fully as possible. I am of the opinion that the patient understood the above information.

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE / /

E. INTERPRETER'S STATEMENT (if applicable)

I have given a translation in _____ of the consent form and any verbal and written information given to the patient by the doctor:

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE / /