

## Renal (Kidney) Angiogram

### What is a Renal Angiogram?

A **renal angiogram** allows for your doctor to analyze the blood vessels in your kidneys. During this procedure your doctor will place a catheter (small tube) into your groin and guide the catheter through your femoral artery to the kidneys. Using x-ray fluoroscopy (live x-ray) and IV contrast dye your doctor can get a clear picture of the blood flow through the vessels of the kidneys.

### What Happens During a Renal Angiogram?

Your doctor will guide a small plastic tube, known as a *catheter*, through your groin and into the *femoral artery* which leads to your kidneys. *IV contrast dye* is injected through the catheter while under *fluoroscopy*, a continuous x-ray, which shows how blood is flowing through the vessels.

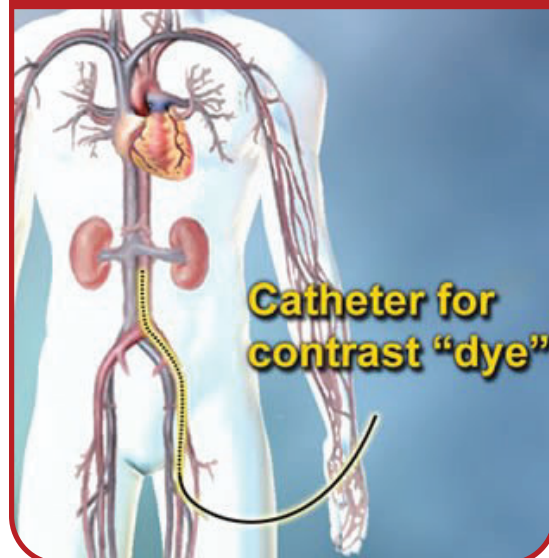
If the study shows that there is a narrowing of the renal arteries, which supply blood to the kidneys, further treatment may be performed, either during the same visit or be scheduled for another time. Treatment of narrowing arteries is usually treated by **angioplasty** (using an inflatable balloon to stretch the artery) or by **stenting** (using a mesh tube to hold the artery open).

After the procedure, your doctor will apply pressure to stop any bleeding from the entry site, and a dressing will be applied shortly thereafter. You will then be taken to a recovery room, where you will be monitored until you are sent home.

### Important Things to know Before Your Procedure:

- Please notify us if you have any known allergy to dye or contrast. If you do have a known allergy, you will be prescribed a medication to prevent any reaction to the dye.
- You should not drive for 24 hours after the procedure, for recovery from the sedation. You will need to arrange for **either**:
  - Someone over the age of 18 to drive you home **or**
  - Inform our office that transportation assistance is needed.
- Please bring a list of **all home medications** with you on the day of the procedure.
- You will be provided with detailed instructions regarding oral food intake and medication usage prior to your procedure.

A Renal Angiogram allows for your doctor to investigate the vasculature of your kidneys



Rapid Referral Email: [referrals@swcva.com](mailto:referrals@swcva.com) | [www.swcva.com](http://www.swcva.com)

## Associated Risks of Your Procedure:

As with any medical procedure, there are risks such as:

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Injury to your nerves
- Temporary kidney failure
- Blood Clots
- Damage to an artery wall
- Swelling due to blood collection

## After Your Procedure:

- You will be taken to a recovery room. In some cases, **you may need to lie flat for between 4 to 8 hours.**
- You may experience some numbness or weakness in your leg for a short period of time following the procedure, assistance will be provided if you need to get up to use the restroom.
- **Please keep yourself hydrated after going home as the IV contrast will need to be flushed out.**

## When You Go Home

- Watch for any signs of swelling or bleeding at the insertion site over the first **48 hours**. There will be bruising, however this should subside within the first week. **Avoid strenuous activity such as bending or squatting, do not lift anything over 8 pounds.** It is okay to take short (5-10 min) walks several times per day.
- **Wound Care:**
  - Avoid submerging in water such as hot tubs, swimming pools and baths for 5 days following your procedure.
  - You can take a shower 1 day after the procedure, **avoid directly spraying the incision site.**
  - You will be given a set of post care instructions prior to your discharge that may include wound dressing care.

## Contact your doctor if you experience the following:

- Persisting numbness or coldness in the limb where the surgery took place
- Fever (100° F or above)
- Severe pain, redness or swelling.
- **Chest pain. If not relieved by medication, CALL 911.**