



*y*ou are scheduled for an
ARTERIOGRAM

date: _____ *time:* _____

Please bring this brochure to your appointment!



To schedule your appointment
 —or if you must cancel—
 please call **610-988-8059**

If you have any questions about arteriograms, please ask.

Please bring this brochure with you.

DIRECTIONS

Location: The Reading Hospital and Medical Center is located at Sixth Avenue and Spruce Street in West Reading.

Parking: Park in the **lower level** of the 6th Avenue Garage, near the Hospital's main entrance. Please use the curved entrance off Spruce Street; this roadway is marked with a SurgiCenter sign. Display the parking tag given to you.

If you misplace or forget this tag, please advise our uniformed attendant when you enter the garage on the day of your arteriogram.

Take the stairs or elevator up one level, and exit the garage.

Entrance: Use the main entrance into C-Building. Go through the lobby; Admissions will be on your right, past the elevator.

Registration: When you exit the elevator, the Reception Desk will be to your right. Please register there as soon as you arrive.



The Reading Hospital and Medical Center

PO Box 16052
 Reading, PA 19612-6052



The Reading Hospital and Medical Center

Your physician has scheduled you for a special type of x-ray study—an arteriogram.

This brochure explains the procedure, so that you know what to expect the day of this study.

ABOUT ARTERIOGRAMS

An arteriogram is a special x-ray study that uses dye, or contrast material, to provide valuable information about the structure of your arteries and the body parts that receive blood from these vessels.

The dye is introduced through a tube, called a catheter, into a particular artery. X-rays are then taken as the dye flows through the artery.

LOCATION

You should report to our Admissions Department, on the second floor of C-Building, at the time indicated.

After you are registered, you will be escorted to a special nursing unit where you will be prepared for the procedure.

The arteriogram will be performed in the Hospital's Interventional Radiology Suite. You will be taken to this section of the Radiology Department on a litter.

Following the procedure, you will be taken to your assigned room to relax.

PREPARATION

If you have diabetes requiring insulin, it may be necessary to make some adjustments. Please contact your physician.

We also recommend that you leave jewelry, hair pins, contact lenses, dentures, etc., at home.

PROCEDURES

The arteriogram will be performed approximately two hours after your arrival at the Hospital. This early arrival is necessary for the Nursing staff to complete the preparations outlined here.

First, the skin near the site where a catheter will later be inserted needs to be shaved. In most cases, this site is the groin. Less frequently, the upper arm may be used. (The catheter will actually be inserted later, once you are taken to the Radiology Department.)

Next, the nurse will place an intravenous tube in your arm in order to give you additional fluids.

Before the study, you will change into a patient gown, and, if you did not leave them at home, all jewelry, hair pins, dentures, etc., will be removed. The nurse will then give you an injection to relax you. This may make you drowsy.

You will then be transported to the Radiology Department.

DURING THE STUDY

The Interventional Radiology room is similar to other x-ray rooms except that it contains more equipment. After you have been helped onto the table, preliminary x-rays will be taken. A technologist will then scrub your groin or arm with an antiseptic solution, and will drape the area with sterile towels.

There are usually one or two physicians and two or three technologists present during the study.

Because you will be awake during the study, you will receive local anesthesia so that you remain comfortable. This medication may burn when first injected. However, within a few seconds, the area will become numb. Thereafter, you will feel only mild pressure when the catheter is inserted and manipulated.

When the catheter is introduced into the blood vessel, the room will be darkened, and a picture will appear on a small overhead screen. The physician is able to see the catheter on this screen, and is able to tell when it is correctly positioned.

When this has been accomplished, the physician will inject the dye. For many people, the injection causes a hot flushing feeling and the sensation that they have urinated. Please do not become alarmed. These sensations last only a few seconds.

During the introduction of the dye, x-ray films are taken. Upon the completion of the study, the physician will remove the catheter, and apply pressure to the insertion site to stop any oozing. Sometimes a special stitch or patch may be applied to the site. A dressing will be secured to the puncture site.

The entire procedure takes between one and two-and-one-half hours, depending upon the complexity of the examination. For most people, the greatest discomfort is mild backache from laying in the same position for that long of a time period.

FOLLOW-UP

You will be taken back to your assigned bed, where you will remain between six and nine hours. The nurses will examine your dressing, and monitor your pulse and blood pressure carefully.

Because you will remain in bed, it may be necessary for you to use the bedpan to void or move your bowels. You may, however, perform any activities that you can safely do in bed: eat, watch TV, read, and have visitors.

At the end of the time, you may resume your usual activity.

The x-ray films will be reviewed by the radiologist. This physician will then report the results to your doctor, who will discuss them with you at your next appointment.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about this x-ray examination, we will be happy to answer them. Just ask your doctor, the nurses who will prepare you for the arteriogram, or the radiologist and technologists performing the study.

