BEFORE THE PROCEDURE

Information

❤ Written teaching materials and video are available to you and your family. Call a Cardiovascular Services Patient Educator at 740-687-8261 for more information.
❤ You will be asked to read and sign a consent form.
❤ A nurse will call and confirm your instructions and procedure date and time.
❤ Report to North Registration, located in the North Lobby, on the day of your procedure. You will be asked for insurance information and I.D. You then will be directed to the Cath Lab waiting room.
❤ You’ll receive a call to confirm medications. If you take metformin (Glucophage), you’ll need to stop taking it the day of the procedure and wait to restart it until at least two days after. Monitor your blood glucose during this time and call your doctor if it’s higher than 300 mg/dL.

Equipment and Testing

❤ Your doctor may order tests to be done before your procedure.

How Do I Prepare?

❤ Ask someone to drive you to and from the hospital.
❤ Don’t eat or drink anything after midnight. If your doctor allows it, have a liquid breakfast the morning of the procedure.
❤ Tell your doctor if you have a cold, flu or fever the day of the procedure.
❤ Bring a list of your current medications, including over-the-counter drugs, herbs and supplements.
❤ Tell your doctor about any allergies you have, particularly to medications, iodine and dyes.

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Your Physician’s Office

Your Primary Care Physician’s Office

Cardiovascular Services Pre-Admission Testing Nurse – 740-687-8348
Cardiovascular Services Patient Educator – 740-687-8261
Cardiac Cath Lab Recovery – 740-687-8494

For any medical emergency, such as chest pain or unusual shortness of breath, please go to the nearest Emergency Department or call 911.

Questions For Your Doctor

Your Guide to Cardiac Catheterization

This guide has been prepared to assist you and your family with understanding what to expect during your procedure. During your catheterization, your doctor inserts a long, flexible tube called a catheter into a blood vessel in your groin, arm or wrist. The catheter is then threaded to your heart. The procedure helps show how well your heart is pumping, to inspect the arteries that feed your heart and to examine your heart valves.

asked to drive you to and from the hospital.
Don’t eat or drink anything after midnight. If your doctor allows it, have a liquid breakfast the morning of the procedure.
Tell your doctor if you have a cold, flu or fever the day of the procedure.
Bring a list of your current medications, including over-the-counter drugs, herbs and supplements.
Tell your doctor about any allergies you have, particularly to medications, iodine and dyes.

updated 8/29/2014

How Do I Prepare?

ask someone to drive you to and from the hospital.
Don’t eat or drink anything after midnight. If your doctor allows it, have a liquid breakfast the morning of the procedure.
Tell your doctor if you have a cold, flu or fever the day of the procedure.
Bring a list of your current medications, including over-the-counter drugs, herbs and supplements.
Tell your doctor about any allergies you have, particularly to medications, iodine and dyes.

Your Guide to Cardiac Catheterization

This guide has been prepared to assist you and your family with understanding what to expect during your procedure. During your catheterization, your doctor inserts a long, flexible tube called a catheter into a blood vessel in your groin, arm or wrist. The catheter is then threaded to your heart. The procedure helps show how well your heart is pumping, to inspect the arteries that feed your heart and to examine your heart valves.

ask someone to drive you to and from the hospital.
Don’t eat or drink anything after midnight. If your doctor allows it, have a liquid breakfast the morning of the procedure.
Tell your doctor if you have a cold, flu or fever the day of the procedure.
Bring a list of your current medications, including over-the-counter drugs, herbs and supplements.
Tell your doctor about any allergies you have, particularly to medications, iodine and dyes.

How Do I Prepare?
DURING THE PROCEDURE

Information
❤️ Your procedure will last 1-2 hours and will take place in the Cath Lab. Your family may wait in the Cath Lab Waiting Room.
❤️ A patient representative will be available for your family to answer questions and help with their needs.
❤️ The cardiologist will meet with you and your family following the procedure to review the results.

Activity
❤️ A nurse will prepare the patch of skin where the catheter will be inserted.
❤️ An IV line will be placed and medication will be given to keep you relaxed and comfortable.
❤️ You’ll be moved to the Cath Lab. The room may feel cool, but you will be covered with sterile drapes.
❤️ You will be relaxed but awake during the procedure because you may be asked to breathe deep or cough.
❤️ The doctor will numb the area where the catheter will be inserted. This usually feels like a pinprick with some burning, but it should only last a few seconds.
❤️ Your doctor will insert a sheath (short plastic sleeve) into a blood vessel. You’ll feel some pressure at first. The catheter will be put into the sheath and threaded to your heart.
❤️ The doctor will inject contrast dye through the catheter. You may feel a warm sensation for a few seconds. X-rays will be used to show the contrast dye on the screen.
❤️ The catheter will be withdrawn and the sheath will be removed. The site may be closed with a stitch or closure device.

AFTER THE PROCEDURE

Activity
❤️ You will be moved to a recovery unit, where you may be asked to lie flat for 4-8 hours.
❤️ The insertion site may be held under pressure to prevent bleeding.
❤️ The nurse will assist you the first time you get up after the procedure.
❤️ You may be required to spend the night in the hospital based upon your condition.

When You Get Home
❤️ Watch for swelling or bleeding during the first 48 hours. The site will be bruised, but this should go away in a week or so. Avoid bending, squatting or any intense activity, such as climbing stairs, running or lifting anything over 15 pounds.
❤️ Care for the puncture site by avoiding baths, hot tubs or swimming pools for the first seven days after the procedure or until the wound has closed. You may remove the dressing and shower after 24 hours, gently washing the site. Ask your doctor for directions if the site was sealed with a special closure device. In some cases, you may need to remove a dressing or pad.
❤️ Your physical condition and the nature of your job will determine when you can return to work. Check with your doctor.

When To Call the Doctor
❤️ If the arm or leg feels cold or numb.
❤️ If there is worsening pain, redness or swelling at the insertion site.
❤️ You have a fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
❤️ If the insertion site bleeds:
   - Lie flat and apply firm pressure.
   - Call 911.