



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **CEREBRAL ANGIOGRAM**

**The following information is a brief description about Cerebral Angiograms. If you have any questions after reading this information, please speak with your nurse.**

### **WHAT IS A CEREBRAL ANGIOGRAM?**

- ❖ An x-ray study of the blood vessels of the brain.
- ❖ Contrast agents (x-ray dyes) are used to make the blood vessels visible.
- ❖ A catheter is inserted into an artery usually at the groin. The catheter is then advanced into the blood vessels of the head and neck. Dye is then injected and x-rays are taken.

### **WHAT INFORMATION DOES IT REVEAL?**

- ❖ A cerebral angiogram can reveal narrowing or blockage(s) of vessel(s) that supply blood to the brain or an aneurysm, tumor or congenital problems.

### **WHERE IS IT DONE?**

- ❖ Radiology Department, 2nd floor, Tisch Hospital.

### **HOW LONG DOES THIS PROCEDURE TAKE?**

- ❖ Takes about 1-2 hour(s) not including transportation time.



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### **WHAT PREPARATION IS NEEDED?**

- ❖ Blood tests, urinalysis, EKG and chest x-ray may be done at your doctor's office or at Pre-Admission Testing (PAT).
- ❖ If not done already, medical history and physical assessment by nursing staff, medical staff and, possibly an anesthesiologist.
- ❖ You must sign a consent form giving your permission for the procedure after the procedure has been explained to you.
- ❖ Unless instructed otherwise, increase your fluid intake the day and evening before the procedure.
- ❖ Tell your doctor and nurse if you have asthma, or are allergic to iodine or shellfish. In addition, tell your doctor and nurse if you previously had any reaction to contrast material (dye) used for other medical tests. Your doctor will order medication to prevent an allergic reaction.
- ❖ Tell your doctor and nurse if you are taking Metformin (Glucophage). Your doctor will stop this medication for a 48 hour period before and after the test.
- ❖ If you are taking any medications ask the doctor what medications you should take the morning of the procedure.

### **DAY OF PROCEDURE:**

- ❖ Take any needed medications with a small sip of water.
- ❖ Do not eat or drink anything after midnight. Report to the Admitting office, 560 First Avenue at the time instructed. Leave all valuables including jewelry, and credit cards at home. You will be directed to the Radiology Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Tisch Hospital.
- ❖ Urinate to empty your bladder and change into a hospital gown.
- ❖ Remove other metal objects and give to your nurse to lock in a safe place.



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### **DURING THE PROCEDURE:**

- ❖ You will lie on an x-ray table.
- ❖ A strap will be placed over your chest.
- ❖ If needed, you will be given a sedative to relax you but it won't put you to sleep.
- ❖ An IV will be started and a blood pressure cuff and EKG monitor will be applied.
- ❖ The area that will be used for the catheter insertion will be cleansed and numbed. This is usually your groin area.
- ❖ A catheter (*long, thin tube*) is inserted into the artery. Dye is then injected through the catheter.
- ❖ You will be monitored by the Radiology staff throughout the procedure.
- ❖ You will be instructed not to breathe, move or swallow for several seconds while the x-rays are taken.
- ❖ After x-rays are completed, the catheter is removed. Firm pressure will be applied for 20 minutes and a bandaid applied over the site.

### **WHAT DOES THE PROCEDURE FEEL LIKE?**

- ❖ At the beginning of the procedure, you will feel a stinging sensation when local anesthetic is injected into the groin.
- ❖ During the procedure, you may feel a warm "flush" when dye is injected. You may also see "flashing lights," have a brief headache or a salty taste in your mouth.



**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?**

- ❖ You will be taken by stretcher to the Observation Room, 14<sup>th</sup> floor, Cooperative Care.
- ❖ Your blood pressure, pulse and respiration's will be taken often.
- ❖ The nurse will check the insertion site for bleeding or swelling and the affected limb for color and temperature.
- ❖ You must stay in bed for at least 6 hours. You should not bend the limb used for the catheter puncture site.
- ❖ Your nurse will tell you when you can get up and review activity recommendations for the rest of the day with you.
- ❖ Meals can be resumed and you should increase your fluid intake. Your family member or friend will also receive a meal.
- ❖ If you need to use the bathroom, ask your nurse for a bedpan or urinal.
- ❖ Notify your nurse for swelling, bleeding or discoloration around the insertion site or numbness or change in sensation in the limb used for the angiogram.

**WHAT ABOUT THE RESULTS?**

- ❖ Your doctor will review the results with you the next day.



**DISCHARGE INFORMATION:**

- ❖ Prior to discharge, your physician will meet with you and review discharge instructions and activity restrictions, if any.
- ❖ In general, discharge instructions include the following:
  1. **ACTIVITIES:** Avoid lifting/straining, heavy housework and for the next 24 hours.
  2. **MEDICATIONS:** Ask your doctor for specific instructions about blood thinners and Metformin (Glucophage)
  3. **CARE OF CATHETER INSERTION SITE:**
- ❖ You may shower in the morning.
- ❖ Remove the bandaid in the morning.
- ❖ You may note bruising and soreness at catheter site: it may move down your leg or to the knee area; this is normal.
- ❖ Notify your physician if pain or swelling occurs. Notify your physician immediately if coldness, numbness or pain in the foot develops.

**MEDICAL FOLLOW-UP:** Call and arrange an appointment to see your private physician.

**IF BLEEDING OCCURS:** Lie down wherever you are. Apply continuous direct pressure just around puncture site at least ten (10) minutes. Never use a tourniquet. If bleeding cannot be controlled, call 911 police emergency or your local emergency number for assistance. Notify physician from the Interventional Radiology Dept. at 263-7204. After hours, you will reach an answering service who will contact the physician on call.

- ❖ You should not drive yourself or take public transportation home.



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**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR QUESTIONS**

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