

## Angiogram Patient Information

My appointment with at Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center is on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm

### **What is an Angiogram (Also know as an Arteriogram)**

An Arteriogram/Angiogram is a Radiological examination of your arteries using a contrast agent (dye). Arteries most frequently examined are of the legs, neck, abdomen and head.

### **Patient Instructions:**

#### **DAY BEFORE THE EXAMINATION:**

No special preparations are necessary. A nurse from the hospital will attempt to call you to confirm your examination and give you instructions regarding your admission. You will be admitted to the hospital the day before or early in the morning the day of your examination, depending upon your physician's preference.

#### **DAY OF THE EXAMINATION:**

**Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before.** You will need to take your scheduled medications with a minimal amount of water (especially any heart and blood pressure medication). If you are on a blood thinner or aspirin, please consult your physician several days prior to your examination.

After being admitted, you will change into a hospital gown. The nurse will check your blood pressure, pulse and temperature and take a medical history. An IV will be started and blood will be drawn for laboratory tests.

#### **What to Expect:**

You will be awake for the examination and medication will be available to you for comfort. The physician will explain the examination to you and/or your family before proceeding.

At the beginning of the procedure, your axilla, arm or upper thigh will be shaved, prepped and scrubbed with soap. The physician will inject a local anesthetic to numb the area prior to inserting a needle into the artery. The femoral or axillary artery is accessed with a needle and a catheter is threaded up into your artery at the specific area to be examined. The physician is able to insert the catheter in the correct place by viewing your arteries on the x-ray screen. Once the catheter is placed, an injection of contrast (dye) is given and a series of accurately timed films are taken. You may feel a warm sensation as the dye is being injected. During the procedure, a nurse will be monitoring your heart, blood pressure and oxygen level in your body.

#### **AFTER THE EXAMINATION:**

When the physician has adequate films, he will remove the catheter from the artery and pressure will be applied to the site for a minimum of 15-20 minutes. Pressure will be released when the puncture site stops bleeding. There may be a small amount of bruising. It is very important to keep the affected arm or leg straight and do not bend it for 4-8 hours as movement may cause bleeding. Your nurse will check your vital signs and puncture site frequently. You will be able to drink and eat immediately after your examination. Dismissal from the hospital will be determined by your physician. You will need someone to drive you home and stay with you the first night.

#### **DAY AFTER THE EXAMINATION:**

Try to avoid strenuous activity and lifting for 1-3 days. A nurse will attempt to call you to check on your progress or you may call her at 219-7211. Your primary care physician will contact you with your examination results. If you have any further questions, please contact the Imaging Center at 219-7211.