

PERIPHERAL ANGIOGRAM



ReVascMedProfessionals
Heart and Vascular Institute



WHAT IS A PERIPHERAL ANGIOGRAM?

A peripheral angiogram is a procedure performed to investigate the arteries of the vascular system. This typically involves the arteries of the legs, but may also include the arteries of the arms, neck, or organs depending on your specific condition. If the involved artery is blocked by plaque build up, your doctor will work to restore normal blood flow by using tools to remove the plaque and open the artery using balloon and/or stents.



WHAT IS PLAQUE AND WHO IS AT RISK?

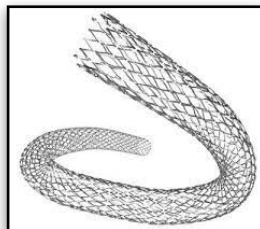
Plaque in the arteries, or atherosclerosis, is typically formed over decades. Patients at elevated risk may have a history of diabetes, high blood pressure, smoking, elevated cholesterol, or a family history of heart /vascular disease. When plaque builds up, it may obstruct the flow of blood in the arteries. If the leg arteries are involved, this can lead to leg pain, wound formation, or even amputation.



HOW DOES A BALLOON OR STENT WORK?

Depending on your specific condition, your doctor may use a balloon or stent to open the blocked artery. A balloon is inflated, then deflated, in the diseased portion of the artery to push the plaque outward against the artery wall and allow proper blood flow. The balloon is then removed from the body. Balloons may have a special drug coating on them to prevent re-narrowing of the artery.

A stent is a metallic mesh cylinder which also pushes plaque outward against the artery wall. A stent functions like a scaffold to keep the artery open; and once deployed, stays in place to allow normal blood flow.



HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE TEST

- Do not eat a meal after midnight on the day of your test. Your doctor or the hospital may instruct you to stop certain medications.
- If you have an IV contrast allergy, make sure you take Prednisone 40mg as directed prior to the procedure.
- Arrive on time for the procedure, the nurses will have to insert an IV and obtain information.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- During the procedure, you will be given sedatives to keep you comfortable. You may not be put into a deep sleep for safety reasons.
- Procedure times may vary based on the need for a stent and disease complexity.
- The doctor will discuss the findings, treatment options, and therapies delivered with you after the procedure.
- Due to the sedatives given during procedure, you are not allowed to drive home alone. Please arrange transportation.
- Please adhere to all post-procedure recovery instructions and medications.