

Questions to Ask Your Doctor About Angiograms

The following questions can help you talk to your physician about having an angiogram. **Print out or write down these questions and take them with you to your appointment.** Taking notes can help you remember your physician's response when you get home.

- What information do you hope to gain from the angiogram?
- What potential benefits may an angiogram have for me?
- What are the alternatives to having an angiogram?
- What risks can I expect from undergoing an angiogram?
- Do I need to have an **empty stomach** before the procedure? Should I withhold any of my **medications**? Are there any medications that I will need to take?
- How will you enter my body to perform the angiogram? (Common **entry sites** are the artery in the groin or the artery in the wrist.)
- How much radiation will I be exposed to during the angiogram?
- What will happen if a blockage is discovered?
- Under what circumstances might an angiogram result in immediate angioplasty and stenting or a referral for bypass surgery?
- Will I have **limitations after the procedure**? Will I need to have someone who can **drive me home**?

Intracardiac echocardiography (ICE)

- What can intracardiac echocardiography tell us about my heart?
- What are the possible benefits for me of ICE?
- What are my individual risks associated with having an ICE test?
- What other test or procedure will ICE be performed with?

Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)

- What symptoms or test results indicated that OCT in conjunction with coronary angiography might be helpful?
- What are the potential benefits for me of OCT?
- What are my individual risks associated with undergoing OCT?
- What happens next if OCT identifies a problem with one of my blood vessels?
- Will I have limitations after the procedure? Will I need to have someone who can drive me home?

Intravascular ultrasound (IVUS)

- Why might IVUS be beneficial for me?
- What individual risks will IVUS present for me?