



**Birmingham Children's Hospital
NHS Trust**

ANGIOGRAPHY

(for Liver Unit Patient)

Parents Information Leaflet

This information leaflet is available in large print and on computer Disk (it is also available in Braille, other languages and on audio tape on request). Please contact the Child and Family Information Centre on 0121 333 8505

ANGIOGRAPHY

What Is an Angiography?

This is a special type of x-ray performed under general anaesthetic in which a special contrast shows up on the xray. It is injected through a blood vessel at the top of your child's leg in the groin or via a vein around the neck area. The resulting pictures will then demonstrate the blood supply of your child's liver.

Why is an angiogram necessary?

An angiogram is needed when surgery is being considered for your child. The surgeons need to know the layout of blood vessels going to the liver before they decide what is the best treatment.

What are the risks of angiography?

Anaesthetics carry a risk, but they are very small. The anaesthetist is a trained doctor who is able to deal with any complication that happens under the anaesthetic. A child may feel sick and vomit, but this is very rare nowadays. Children may have a headache, sore throat, feel dizzy or may be upset. These are usually short lived.

There is a small risk of bleeding or bruising after an angiogram and this is why children are observed for up to 6 hours after the procedure. This is the period in which a bleed would show up. Children who have a very low risk of bleeding and live within an hour of the hospital can go home the same day.

What do you do to help prevent the risk of bleeding?

To help prevent this risk of bleeding the doctors will check that your child's blood is clotting well. This will be checked with the blood taken when your child is first admitted to the ward.

What is the preparation for the scan?

Your child will normally come to the hospital the day before the procedure. This will be to have blood tests and possibly an ultrasound. The reasons for the biopsy and the consent are usually done in out patients by your consultant. Your understanding will be checked and verbal consent will be taken again and a written consent, if not previously taken. This is a good time to ask any further questions.

Some families then stay on the ward for the procedure the next day or go to a local hotel and are admitted to MDU early the next morning. You will be told when to withhold food and drink. This is generally at least 6 hours for solids and milk and 3 hours for clear fluids.

What happens next?

The next morning a small plastic tube (a cannula) is inserted into a vein. Your child may be given a sleepy medicine to help them relax. This will be discussed with you. You will be able to take your child to the anaesthetic room where medicine is given into a cannula to produce the special sleep. The angiogram now takes place and can take up to an hour.

How quickly will my child recover?

Your child will recover from the procedure over the next few hours. The nurses will take regular recordings of pulse, blood pressure, respiration rate and amount of oxygen in the blood (oxygen saturations) and observe the site in the groin where all the

injections were made and the circulation in that leg. These observations are done to check for any bleeding and that blood is circulating well around the leg.

Your child will be drowsy after the procedure. They can start to eat and drink slowly when they are fully awake. Full recovery can be expected by late afternoon when normally a meal can be given. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

When will we know the results of the angiography?

There are not usually available on the day of the procedure. Your consultant will need to view the x-rays with the radiologist who performed the angiography. The results and implications will then be discussed with you.

What care will my child need at home?

The evening after the biopsy your child may feel sore around the site of the needle. Normal single doses of Paracetamol can be given. Keep the site covered with a plaster overnight. You may give your child a bath the next day and remove the plaster. School or nursery can be restarted 2 days after the procedure. Your child should avoid sport or active games until they restart school.

If your child complains of continuous pain around the site or generally feels unwell, then please contact the hospital and ask to speak to the Liver Unit Registrar on call by ringing 0121 333 9999. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to give us a ring. You can also contact Liver Direct where an experienced nurse is available Monday to Friday answer general concerns. Messages can be left on the same number and will be answered the same day. (The service is available 10.30 – 12.30, 2.30 – 4.30. and 2.30 – 5.30 on Monday from April 2003).

Please use this space to write down any notes or questions you may have.



