

Venography

Information For Patients

This leaflet tells you about the procedure known as Venography. It explains what is involved and about the risk and complications.

What is a venogram?

A venogram is a special x-ray examination of blood vessels. Normally, blood vessels do not show up on ordinary x-rays. However, by injecting a special dye, called contrast medium, into a vein through a special fine plastic tube called a catheter, and taking x-rays immediately afterwards, detailed images of your veins can be produced.

Why do I need a venogram?

The venogram will provide us with the information required to see if you require any further treatment such as embolisation, surgery or medication.

There are other tests that can provide us with information about your veins, such as ultrasound, which provide useful information, and you may already have had some other tests performed. It is felt that in your case the best way of obtaining the amount of detail required is by Venography.

Who has made the decision?

The doctors in charge of your case and the radiologist doing the venogram will have discussed the situation, and feel that this is the next step. However, you will also have the opportunity for your opinion to be taken into account, and if, after discussion with your doctors, you do not want the procedure carried out, then you can decide against it.

Who will be doing the venogram?

Your venogram will be performed by a specially trained doctor called a Radiologist. Radiologists have special expertise in interpreting the images produced and in treating patient's blood vessels. The Radiologist will be assisted throughout the procedure by Radiographers who are specially trained to operate the imaging equipment and Radiology nurses; who will assist the radiologist and look after you throughout your venogram.

Where will the procedure take place and what staff are involved?

In a specialised room in the x-ray (radiology) department which is designated for this type of procedure.

How do I prepare for an angiogram?

Prior to your procedure you will be required to attend the x-ray department for a pre-assessment.

This will involve performing some simple tests e.g. blood test to ensure it is safe to carry out your procedure and will be carried out by one of the x-ray staff nurses. It is important that you let the staff nurse know of all the medication you are currently taking especially those detailed below. As indicated some medications have to be discontinued prior to your procedure. Routine swabs of your nose and groin will also be taken. This is simple and painless reducing the risks of infection within the hospital environment, as a small percentage of the population can carry resistant infections unknowingly. The pre-assessment is important as it allows us to ensure that it is safe to carry out your procedure.

If you have any allergies or have previously reacted to contrast medium, the dye used for kidney x-rays and CT scanning, you must let the x-ray department know before the procedure.

You can contact the radiology department as follows:

Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Telephone: 01484 342186

A member of staff will be able to help with any questions you may have regarding your examination and medication. If they are busy they may need to take your number and call you back.

You may eat up to 4 hours prior to your procedure time and drink up to 2 hours prior to your procedure.

On arrival in the x-ray department you will be greeted by the staff and some last minute checks will be performed. The radiologist performing your venogram will then explain what is going to happen and you will be asked to sign and date a consent form to allow us to proceed with your venogram.

You should not drive your car on the day of the procedure, therefore you should arrange for someone to bring you into hospital and collect you after your procedure.

If you need hospital transport you must contact the Radiology department in good time to allow us to book the transport you require.

Please note that hospital transport will only be provided if there is a medical need.

What actually happens during a Venogram?

You will lie on your back on the x-ray table. A device placed on your finger will monitor your breathing / pulse, and a cuff on your arm will monitor your blood pressure throughout the procedure.

We need to keep everything as clean as possible during the procedure therefore the radiologist and the nurse will be wearing theatre gowns and sterile gloves.

Your groin area will be exposed and cleaned with antiseptic fluid. The rest of your body will then be covered with a large drape or towel.

Your groin area will then be numbed with an injection of local anaesthetic. A small nick is made in your skin, a needle is then inserted into your vein and a fine wire is passed through the needle. The needle is then withdrawn and a short tube called a sheath is placed over the wire into the vein.

The radiologist will then insert a catheter (a long, flexible tube) through the sheath and advance it to the veins we need to image.

The radiologist uses the x-ray equipment to make sure that the catheter and the wire are moved into the right position, and then the wire is withdrawn. The special dye (contrast medium) is then injected through the catheter and x-rays are taken.

Once the radiologist is satisfied that the x-rays show all the information required, the catheter will be removed and the radiologist will then press firmly on the skin entry point, for several minutes, to prevent any bleeding.

Will it hurt?

When the local anaesthetic is injected, it will sting to start with, but this soon wears off, and the skin and deeper tissues should then feel numb. After this, the procedure should not be painful. There will be a nurse, or another member of clinical staff, standing next to you and looking after you. If the procedure does become uncomfortable for you, then they will be able to arrange for you to have some painkillers through the needle in your arm.

As the dye, or contrast medium, passes around your body, you may get a warm feeling, which some people can find a little unpleasant. However, this soon passes off and should not concern you.

How long will it take?

Every patient's situation is different, and it is not always easy to predict how complex or how straightforward the procedure will be. Some are generally straightforward and do not take very long, perhaps half an hour. Other venograms may be more complex, and take rather longer, perhaps over an hour. As a guide, expect to be in the x-ray department for about an hour and a half altogether.

What happens afterwards?

You will be taken back to our day case on a trolley. Nurses on the unit will carry out routine observations, such as taking your pulse and blood pressure, to make sure that there are no problems. They will also look at the skin entry point to make sure there is no bleeding from it. You will generally stay in bed for an hour, until you have recovered.

Are there any risks or complications?

Venography is considered a very safe procedure, designed to obtain sufficient information about your circulation to allow you and your doctors to make an informed decision about your future treatment. There are some slight risks and possible complications involved:

- There may occasionally be a small bruise, called a haematoma, around the site where the needle has been inserted, and this is quite normal.
- Allergic reactions to the contrast dye are in-frequent. These reactions are usually minor e.g. skin rash, which will clear up on its own. Rarely, it can be more serious which may require treatment with by medication such as steroids. Please make as aware of any allergic history you have prior to your appointment. All our staff are trained to deal with these reactions and treat appropriately.

Does this procedure use radiation?

This procedure does use x-rays which involves you receiving a moderate dose of radiation, however, the benefit of an accurate diagnosis or successful treatment far outweighs the risk.

Finally

Some of your questions should have been answered by this leaflet, but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you. Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure, before you sign the consent form.

Please Note:

All patients attending the x-ray department will be asked to confirm their identity by stating their full name, address and date of birth. This is a **legal requirement** and may be carried out several times during your visit.

If you would like this information in large print, braille, audio, CD or in another language please contact below:

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Radiology Admin Team
Radiology department
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary
Lindley, Huddersfield
HD3 3EA

Telephone No: (01484) 342186

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

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برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

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المذكور أعلاه"

This leaflet has been prepared by the British Society of Interventional Radiology (BSIR) with the Clinical Radiology Patients' Liaison Group (CRPLG) of The Royal College of Radiologists and edited accordingly by Calderdale & Huddersfield Trust

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