



Introduction –Interventional Radiology (Angiography)

Interventional Radiology is a method of diagnosis and/or treatment of various medical conditions and anatomical regions. Interventional radiology is often used as an alternative to higher risk surgical procedures in order to enhance the quality of life for patients.

Angiography and Angioplasty are specific types of Interventional Radiology procedures used to examine, diagnosis, and possibly treat various blood vessels for blockages and other conditions.

Note: Cardiac Angiography and Cardiac Angioplasty procedures are only performed at Kelowna General Hospital, [Cardiac Services](#).

Procedure

Preparation

Preparation will vary by procedure. You will be advised of your preparation instructions prior to your appointment.

How it Works

A Radiologist (a specially trained physician who performs the procedure) inserts small tubes, and wires into various blood vessels or organs of the body, guided by the images supplied with x-rays, CT, or ultrasound. Contrast agents (dyes) will be injected to make the blood vessels and other internal structures visible in the x-ray/CT images.

A technologist will assist the radiologist with the procedure and operation of the CT or X-Ray equipment.

What to Expect

As with any procedure, every precaution is taken to make the patient as comfortable as possible. The most common causes of discomfort are the application of the local anaesthetic (freezing) and the need to stay still for periods of time while images are being taken. Be sure to let the technologist or radiologist know if you are uncomfortable.

Benefits

Interventional Radiology is not only a diagnosis procedure but can be beneficial treatment options for patients since the procedures are minimally invasive, possibly eliminating the need for surgery and general anaesthesia. Hospital stays are typically short if required and recovery time is much less than from the average surgery.

Risks

As with all radiological procedures, you will be exposed to a small amount of radiation. There is a very low risk associated with this exposure and all precautions are taken to ensure that only the necessary amount of radiation is used to complete the procedure.

Please advise your doctor and the technologists performing the procedure of:

- any food allergies
- any allergic reactions you have had to anesthetic or x-ray contrast dyes
- any medications you are taking
- history of asthma, heart, or kidney problems
- any possibility of pregnancy

Referrals

A referral required.

An appointment is required. You will be contact to arrange a date and time.

Results

The radiologist will analyze the images and send a report to your referring physician, who will share the results with you.

Language

If the patient has difficulty understanding English, an interpreter needs to accompany the patient.