INSTRUCTIONS
CAROTID ARTERY BALLOON ANGIOPLASTY AND STENT

Be in Admissions at Pennsylvania Hospital, 800 Spruce St at: ____________________
The procedure is scheduled to start approximately: ____________________
You must be on time or your procedure may be postponed until later in the day or even cancelled. The exact timing of cases starting after 8 AM is highly unpredictable.

Arteriography is a study that involves placing a needle in an artery, usually in the groin, and injecting dye, or contrast material, through the needle and catheter. This study provides a “road-map” or picture of the arteries. The test is done under local anesthesia, although medicine will be given to make you relaxed and sleepy.
If you have a blockage, we may decide that the best treatment is a balloon angioplasty where a balloon is inflated in the blockage and then the balloon is removed. A stent is placed where the balloon was inflated to help keep the artery open. The stent stays in place.

If you have the following problems, you must inform your doctor before the test:
Allergies to dye: If you have a known allergy to dye (contrast), you should let the doctor know. If so, we will give you steroids (Prednisone) before the test to prevent this reaction.
Kidney problems: If you have known kidney problems (renal failure, elevated creatinine), we may give you medication to prevent further problems.
Blood-thinning medications: If you are taking Coumadin, you should let the doctor know. We will stop this medication several days before the test to prevent bleeding. You should be taking Plavix 75 mg/day starting at least three days before the procedure.
Metformin (glucophage): We will need to stop this 1-2 days before the procedure.

1) Day of procedure: nothing by mouth after midnight (except medications with sips of water - check with your primary care physician or anesthesiologist or cardiologist).

2) After the procedure, most patients are discharged the next day.

3) You must make arrangements to have someone else drive you home

4) You should call the office 215-829-5000 when you get home for a follow-up appointment to be scheduled approximately 1-2 weeks later. Tell the office to schedule a carotid ultrasound in the office the same day you return for the appointment if these tests can be fit in the same day.

5) You should relax when you get home, although it is acceptable to walk

6) You may resume normal activities the next day (no active exercise for one week)

7) You may have a small firm lump in the groin as well as bruising within a few days of the procedure. If severe pain or a large lump occurs, call your doctor.

Questions call Kelly 215-829-5005.