

**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.