

# NIH Clinical Center Patient Education Materials

## Interventional Radiology: Venogram Using Fluoroscopy

A venogram using fluoroscopy is a “real time” X-ray that shows the location of your blood vessels by taking a special picture. This “map” of your blood vessels may be done before surgery to help your surgeon plan your surgery. It might also be done to locate the correct blood vessel for catheter placement.

This common, routine procedure is not surgery, and it is minimally invasive. However, although unlikely, even minimally invasive procedures may cause complications, which may include bleeding, infection, or pain.

During the venogram, the radiologist will give you contrast dye through an intravenous (I.V.) tube (catheter) inserted into your veins. This dye helps the radiologist see your blood vessels on X-rays.

### **Preparation**

If you are allergic to I.V. contrast, you may need to take some medications before the procedure. These medications will enable you to receive the I.V. contrast safely. Your doctor will probably ask you to take these medications several times during the day before the procedure, often starting 13 hours before the procedure.

You may be asked to take these medications on one of these schedules:

- Prednisone by mouth, 13 hours before the procedure
- Prednisone by mouth, 7 hours before the procedure; and prednisone and benadryl (diphenhydramine) by mouth 1 hour before the procedure

### **Immediately before the procedure**

When you arrive in Interventional Radiology, the radiologist and nurse will discuss the procedure with you and answer your questions. You will be asked to sign a consent form giving your health care team permission to perform the procedure. You will then change into a hospital gown.

### **Procedure**

- Your nurse and/or Interventional Radiology technologist may apply monitors to measure your vital signs (heart rhythm, breathing, and blood pressure).
- Your nurse may insert 1 or more I.V. lines into your arm, depending on what pictures are needed.
- Using fluoroscopy, the radiologist will inject I.V. contrast into your I.V. and take pictures of your veins.
- Unless you need your I.V. lines for another test or procedure, they will be removed after the procedure is finished.
- The procedure generally lasts 15 minutes to an hour.

**After the Procedure**

- You will be returned to your inpatient or outpatient room.
- Your nurse will check the site for bleeding, swelling, or pain.
- Remove the bandage or dressing in 24 hours.
- Rest and limit your physical activity for the day.

**Note for Patients with Diabetes**

If you take a medication for diabetes made with metformin, you must stop this medication for 48 hours after the procedure, and have a BUN/creatinine (blood work) to assess your kidney function before restarting this medicine. Your doctor will talk to you about the need to take other diabetes medications.

**Please call your primary care team if you have any of the following symptoms:**

- High temperature or chills (38.5°C or 101°F)
- Lightheadedness, dizziness, or feeling faint
- Increasing redness, swelling, or bleeding or drainage at the I.V. site(s)

If you have any symptoms that you feel are significant or severe, and you cannot contact your NIH physician, then call 911, or go to your nearest emergency room. If possible, bring this sheet with you and give it to the emergency room staff.

NIH Clinic/Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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