



Cardiac Catheterization

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I. Purpose:

Cardiac catheterization, is used to study the function and condition of the heart. Contrast medium is injected to confirm the diagnosis of coronary artery disease, and then special equipment and drugs can be used to treat the disease.

II. Precautions before inspection:

- i. If you have any food or drug allergy, please inform the medical staff in advance.
- ii. Fasting for eight hours is usually suggested prior to the procedure.
- iii. The nurse will place an intravenous line on your arm, so you can receive medications and fluids during the procedure. Please empty your bladder in advance and wear a diaper.
- iv. The nursing staff will check and mark the dorsalis pedis artery of your feet for evaluation.
- v. On the day of the procedure, please take off your underwear, remove any jewelries or dentures, wear surgical cap and your identity wristband.
- vi. During the examination, the family should await outside the cardiac catheterization room .The doctor will explain the results when complete the examination.

III. In inspection:

- i. After local disinfection and anesthesia, a catheter is inserted into the artery of your groin or wrist and passed up to the heart. During the procedure, you may be asked to take a deep breath, hold your breath, or cough to facilitate the procedure.
- ii. During contrast injection, you might feel flushed. Take a deep breath and this sensation will soon disappear. Please inform the medical staff if you develop chest tightness, persistent nausea/vomits, palpitations, shortness of breath and other symptoms, please tell the medical staff immediately. Please do not move your body.
- iii. Once any narrowing or blockage is found, interventional procedure might be done to keep the blood vessels patent through balloon angioplasty or stent placement, which normally takes 1 to 3 hours.

IV. After inspection:

- i. Nursing staff will check on you regularly check your body temperature, pulse, respiration, and blood pressure. They also check your physical sensation, temperature, pulse, and wounds.
- ii. You can drink water and then eat, if no nausea and vomiting is noted.
- iii. Pressure (manual compression/compression sandbag) will be applied to the puncture site for 2 to 4 hours to stop the bleeding. You will need to lie flat and keep your leg straight to avoid bleeding from the wound. Other limbs can be lightly moved. You should use a urinal or potty on the bed to urinate. Do not get out of bed to avoid bleeding. If you can't resolve your urination, please tell the nursing staff.
- iv. After the procedure, a hemostatic patch and pressure will be applied to the wrist for 4-6 hours

to stop the bleeding. You can move your fingers but avoid bending your wrists. Report any numbness, pain or pallor in you fingers.

v. Once the bleeding stops, the wound will be covered with gauze. Please keep the wound clean and dry to avoid infection.

V. Wound care after discharge:

i. Please keep the wound clean and dry for 2~3 days to avoid infection. Check the wound daily for any redness, swelling, heat, pain, abnormal discharge or hematoma until it is healed.

Ecchymosis or small lumps of puncture site is frequently found. Don't rub it, and it should resolve within 1-2 weeks.

ii. If you are punctured on the wrist, avoid lifting heavy items or twisting towel for a week. If you are punctured on the groin, avoid any exercise that might increase intra-abdominal pressure (e.g. cycling, squatting, or swimming).

VI. Precautions of drug use:

i. You will be prescribed anti-platelet agents to avoid thrombosis after stent placement. Please follow the instructions and take the medications on time. Never stop taking the medicine on your own.

ii. Watch out for any possible bleeding events while taking the antiplatelet medications. Seek medical advice immediately once you develop melena, bleeding gums, hematoma or hematuria.

iii. Tell your dentist which antiplatelet medication you are taking before any dental procedure.

Please feel free to ask if you have any questions. Our nursing staff would be happy to serve you. After you have been discharged from the hospital, if you have any concerns, you can call the Mackay Hospital health consultation hotline: Taipei / Tamsui Mackay (02)25713760, Hsinchu Mackay (03) 5745098, Taitung Ma Kai (089) 310150 to 624, consultation hours: Monday to Friday 9:00-12:00 am, 2:00-5:00 pm.

I wish you peace and health