

Advice following angioplasty

This leaflet explains your care following an angioplasty procedure (used to widen blocked or narrowed arteries). Should you have any other queries please contact the Radiology Department, Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Introduction

The Radiology Team looking after you should have already explained the details of your treatment and what was done. Normally the arteries treated have been stretched with a balloon, which has then been removed. Sometimes a stent is also inserted. A stent is a tubular support placed inside the artery to keep it open. Please ask if you are unsure or would like more information.

The time you have spent in hospital after the procedure is to ensure you are safe to go home. In particular you will have been monitored to ensure there is no bleeding.

When you are at home:

- Very few people have any problems related to the procedure after discharge but you will require another responsible adult to be with you for 24 hours to be safe. You will be also contacted the day after your procedure by a nurse to see how you are.
- There may be a small bruise at the puncture site where a tube was placed in the artery. This is called a haematoma and is quite normal. Keep this area clean to avoid infection. If there is a dressing over the puncture site keep this dry for 24 hours before removing it. If it continues to weep put another plaster on for a further 24 hours.
- If the groin becomes swollen and painful when at home or if you are concerned at any time that there is a problem with the groin or treated leg, please contact the Radiology Department for advice in hours (see overleaf for contact details). If your symptoms are severe or it is out of hours, you should go to the nearest Accident & Emergency Department.
- Following the procedure please rest. You may resume normal daily activities the following day but wait at least 48 hours before resuming to drive or do strenuous exercise. If the groin is sore you may need longer.
- Your follow-up will be explained to you on discharge. Patients are typically assessed in the Vascular Clinic 4 to 6 weeks after treatment.

If you have any questions after reading this leaflet please ask the team looking after you.

Contact us

Interventional Radiology Nurses station:

Level 1 X-Ray, Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS foundation Trust

Tel 0118 322 8368

For more information about the Trust, visit the website www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

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