

# Procedure Using a Radial Artery

## After Visit Summary

This is general information. Please see your After Visit Summary for how to take care of yourself after surgery.

Your health care team will work with you to understand any challenges you have after your hospital stay. This will help your team work toward a plan to make sure you have the right care and support to help manage your health after you leave the hospital.

## Your Procedure

Your health care provider used the radial artery in your arm to place a catheter (thin tube).

## What to Expect After the Procedure

You may have a bruise, nickel-sized lump or both in the puncture area. The bruising may increase in size. It may take 2 to 3 weeks for the bruise to go away.

## Before the Procedure

- Tell your health care provider if you:
  - are pregnant
  - have a latex allergy
  - have diabetes
  - take a blood-thinner medicine.
- Remove any jewelry or piercings.
- Arrange to have someone drive you home. You will not be able to drive after the procedure.

## Puncture Site Care

- Remove the dressing from your wrist the morning after the procedure.
- You may take a shower and wash your wrist with soap and water. Don't scrub the area. Gently pat the area dry.
- Don't soak the wrist of your affected arm in water for 4 days after the procedure or until the area has healed. Avoid:
  - bath tubs and hot tubs
  - swimming pools
  - dishwasher.
- You may put a clean bandage on the site, if needed.

## Pain Relief

- Take any prescription and over-the-counter medicine as directed.

## Activity

- Don't strain your affected arm or lift anything that weighs more than 5 pounds for 24 hours.
- Keep your arm raised when you are resting to help keep the swelling down.
- Your health care provider will tell you when it's OK for you to shower, drive, return to work and have sex.
- Slowly return to your regular level of activity.

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- Follow your health care provider's directions for how much you can safely lift.
- Rest as needed.
- Avoid tobacco and secondhand smoke. They can slow your recovery.

## Food and Beverages

- Eat well-balanced meals. Follow any instructions your health care provider gave you.
- Avoid alcohol while you are taking prescription pain medicine.

## What to Do if the Puncture Site Bleeds or if You Have a Hard Lump That Gets Larger

If the site starts to bleed:

- Lie down flat.
- Apply pressure slightly above the site.
- If the bleeding doesn't stop after you apply pressure, call 911.

## When To Call Your Health Care Provider

Call your health care provider if you:

- have a new hard lump or sudden swelling at the puncture site
- are bleeding at the puncture site that needs pressure to control
- have new drainage at the puncture site
- have numbness, tingling, or pain in the fingers of your affected arm

- have a change in color in the fingers of your affected arm
- have other changes at the puncture site
- have a temperature of 101 F or higher
- have new pain or pain you can't control
- feel dizzy or lightheaded that won't stop
- have signs of infection at your incision site:
  - pain
  - swelling
  - redness
  - odor
  - warmth
  - green or yellow discharge
- are unable to get out of bed
- have nausea (upset stomach) or vomiting (throwing up) that won't stop
- have any questions or concerns.

## Follow-up Appointment

At your follow-up appointment, you will be taught how your device will be checked.

Please keep all follow-up appointments with your health care provider or specialist, even if you are feeling well.