

# Fistulogram or Shuntogram

## Fistulogram or Shuntogram

Your dialysis shunt (fistula) is not working well. Your health care provider wants you to have a fistulogram or shuntogram to find out what is wrong.

During the procedure, the doctor will place catheters (thin plastic tubes) into your fistula. He or she will inject contrast into the catheters. The contrast will show if there is a problem with the blood flow inside of or away from your shunt.

If the blood vessels inside the shunt or leading to the shunt are narrowed, the doctor can make them wider by inflating a balloon-tipped catheter. This procedure is called an angioplasty.

## What To Tell Your Health Care Provider

Tell your health care provider if you:

- have had a contrast reaction
- have any allergies to latex or medicine
- are breastfeeding, pregnant or think you may be pregnant
- take a blood thinner, such as warfarin (Jantoven®)
- **have diabetes** (Ask for an early morning appointment and talk with your health care provider about your medicine needs.)
- take any medicines. (Check with your health care provider see if you have special medicine instructions.)

Also, tell your health care provider when you had your last dialysis run.

## Your Appointment

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. / p.m.

Plan to spend at least \_\_\_\_\_ minutes / hours at the facility.

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

If you need to cancel or reschedule, call at least 24 hours before your scheduled appointment.

## Before the Procedure

- Please make arrangements to have someone drive you home. You will not be able to drive. It is important that someone stay with you or be available to help you for 12 hours after the procedure.
- If you had any X-rays or other imaging tests done at a different facility, please arrange to have them sent (electronically or the films) to the hospital or clinic where you are having the procedure.
- Bring a list of your current medicines with you to the procedure. Include all prescription, over-the-counter, vitamins, herbal or natural products.
- Do not eat or drink anything the morning of the procedure.

**(over)**

- Take any medicines you need with a small sip of water, or as directed by your health care provider.
- Please follow any instructions you received from your health care provider.

## **During the Procedure**

- You will wear a hospital gown.
- An intravenous (IV) line will be started in your hand or arm. You will receive medicine through the IV for your comfort.
- You will lie on an X-ray table.
- You will be covered with sterile sheets to protect you from infection.
- The radiologist will numb the area where the catheters go in.
- Once the area is numb, the contrast will be injected. You may feel a warm flush or a metallic taste.
- You may be asked to hold your breath or answer simple questions. (You will not be asleep during the procedure.)
- X-ray equipment will be used to help the radiology team find the problem area.
- Your blood pressure and heart rate will be closely watched.

## **After the Procedure**

- You will stay in a recovery area for up to 3 hours.
- Nurses will monitor your pulse, blood pressure and the insertion site.
- You will be able to eat and drink as soon as you would like.
- Nurses will remove the IV.
- You may have dialysis right away if the blood flowed through the shunt during the procedure.
- Have someone drive you home.
- Follow the instructions you received at discharge about driving, returning to work and other activities.
- Take the medicines your health care provider tells you to take.

## **Follow-up Results**

- A radiologist will look at and interpret the X-rays.
- Your health care provider will receive the exam results. He or she will either talk with you about the results or mail you the results.