

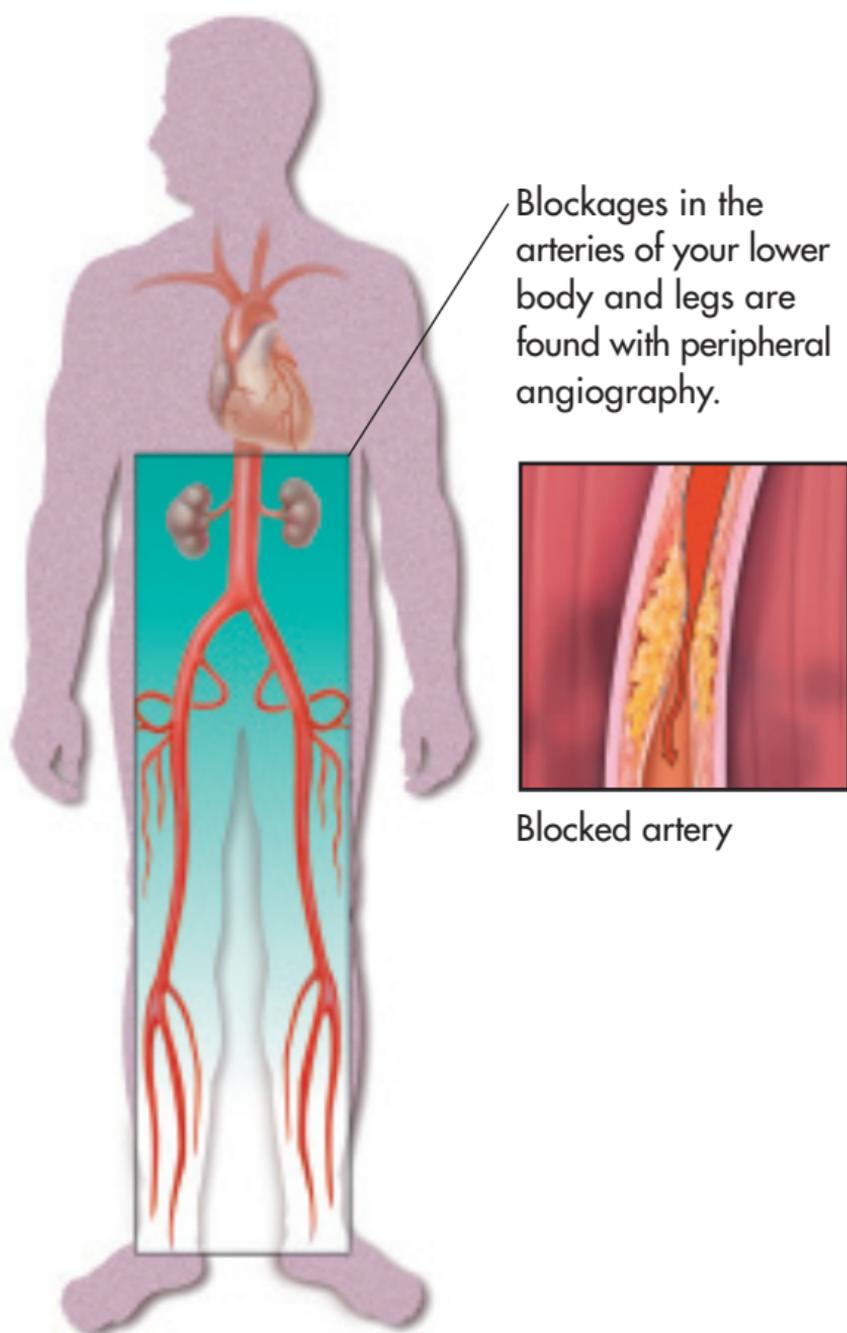
# Peripheral Angiography



Mapping Blood Flow  
Through Your Lower Body

# What Is Peripheral Angiography?

Peripheral angiography is an out-patient procedure that helps find blood vessel problems in your lower body and legs. It makes a “map” of the vessels (arteries) that carry blood through your body. This map can show where blood flow may be blocked. Blockages can cause painful leg cramps while you are walking. They can also keep foot wounds from healing.



## Before Angiography

Here's how to prepare for your angiography:

- Tell your doctor what medicines you take, especially those for heart or blood sugar problems.
- Tell your doctor about any allergies you may have.
- Don't eat or drink after midnight the night before your angiography.
- If your doctor says to take your normal medicines, swallow them with only small sips of water.
- Arrange for a family member or friend to drive you home.



## Risks and Complications

Angiography is safe. But it does have some risks and possible complications. These include:

- Bleeding or bruising at the insertion site
- Allergic reaction or kidney problems from the contrast "dye"
- Injury to the artery

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## During Angiography

You may get medicine through an IV (intravenous) line to relax you. You'll also be given an injection to numb the insertion site.

- A tiny skin incision is made near an artery in your groin. This is the insertion site.
- Your doctor inserts a **catheter** (thin tube) through the site. He or she then slides the catheter into an artery while viewing a video monitor.
- Contrast "dye" is injected into the catheter. You may feel warmth or pressure in your legs and back.
- You lie still as x-rays are taken.
- The catheter is then removed.
- Pressure is applied to the site by hand or with a special belt.

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## Back at Home

You'll have a small bandage over the insertion site. You can remove it in 1 or 2 days. On the day you get home:

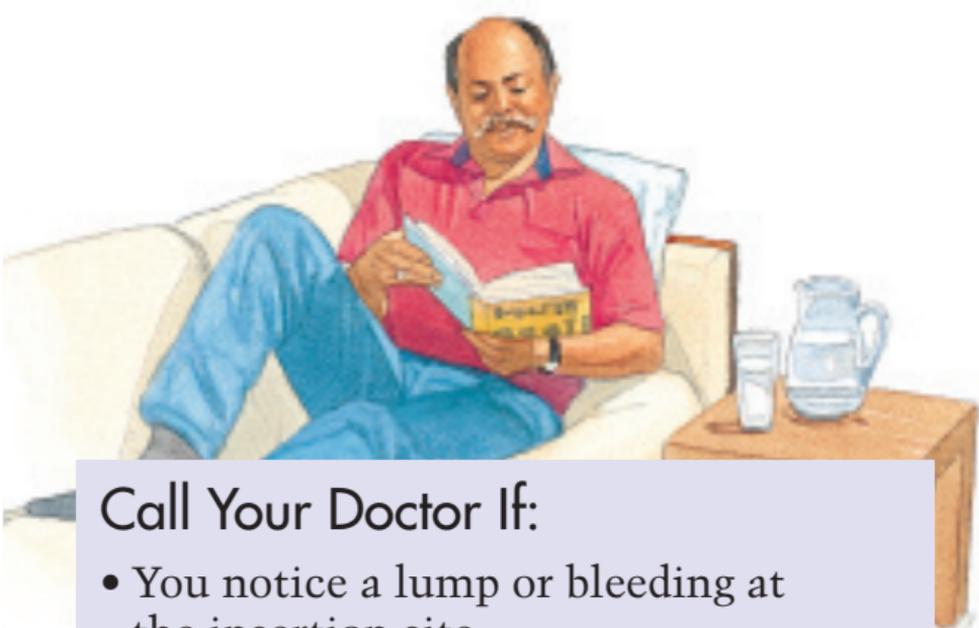
- Don't drive.
- Don't exercise.
- Avoid walking and taking stairs.
- Avoid bending and lifting.

Your doctor may give you other care instructions. You can probably get back to your normal activities in a day or two.



## After Angiography

You'll be taken to a recovery area. A doctor or nurse will keep applying pressure to the site for about 10 minutes. You will need to keep your leg still and straight for a few hours. Your doctor will discuss the results with you soon after the procedure.



### Call Your Doctor If:

- You notice a lump or bleeding at the insertion site.
- You feel pain at the insertion site.
- You become lightheaded or dizzy.
- You have leg pain or numbness.

# Getting Treatment

Once your doctor knows the cause of your symptoms, he or she can find the best treatment for you.

You may receive a treatment called angioplasty. This may occur on the same day as your angiography. The treatment can help open a narrowed artery. Your doctor will explain the details to you.

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