Cavernosagram

Radiology Service

Information for patients

**What is a Cavernosagram?**
A cavernosagram is a procedure performed to examine the blood vessels in your penis. Using x-ray contrast dye and x-ray guidance, a cavernosagram provides information about the blood vessels and blood vessel abnormalities which may then be treated.

**What to Bring:**
Bring any relevant imaging scans (film packet or a CD containing X-rays, CT scans, ultrasound or MRIs etc.)

**Preparation:**
You may be required to have a blood test prior to your procedure to check your kidney function and blood clotting levels.

At the time of booking and when you attend your procedure, tell staff if you have any allergies, have had a previous reaction to an x-ray dye or if you have kidney disease. This ensures that the appropriate measures are taken to carry out the procedure with maximum safety.

Arrange for someone to take you home from your procedure and stay with you overnight.

**Eating/ drinking:**
You will be required not to eat or drink for 4 hours prior to your procedure.

**Medications:**
Tell staff at the time of booking if you are taking any:

- Blood thinning medications (e.g. Warfarin, Xarelto, Rivaroxaban, Pradaxa, Apixaban, Eliquis).
- Antiplatelet medications (e.g. Clopidogrel, Plavix, Aspirin)
- Diabetic medication containing metformin.

You will be informed if you need to stop taking these medications before your procedure.

Continue taking other medications as prescribed, unless directed otherwise by medical or nursing staff prior to your procedure.

Please bring a list of all your medications with you to your appointment.

**Procedure:**
On arrival to the hospital a nurse will discuss with you your medical history and insert a small plastic tube (cannula) into a vein in your hand or arm.

The doctor will explain the procedure and discuss with you the potential risks and you will be asked to sign a consent form. Your heart rate and blood pressure will be monitored during the procedure by nursing staff.
During the procedure you will be lying on a bed in the angiography room. Your penis will be cleaned with antiseptic wash and local anaesthetic will be used to numb a small section of skin on your penis. A needle will be inserted through the numb patch of skin and a medication called Papaverine will be injected to simulate an erection. X-ray dye will then be injected to examine the filling and draining of the blood vessels in your penis.

If abnormal vein leakage is seen, the leaking veins can be accessed and blocked. Access to these leaking veins is usually performed by inserting a small plastic tube, called a sheath, into a vein in your neck and then navigating via small plastic tubes, called catheters, through the venous blood system into the leaking veins.

Once completed, the sheath and needle will be removed and pressure will be applied to the puncture sites to stop any bleeding which may occur.

Post Procedure Care:
You will be required to rest in bed for 4 hours after your procedure. You will be transferred to the day recovery unit for the duration of your recovery period where you will be monitored by nursing staff until ready to be discharged home.

Bruising and tenderness at the needle site is to be expected. At home you should take simple pain relief such as paracetamol as required.

Discharge
Generally you will be able to go home the same day as your procedure if you have no other medical conditions/concerns that require further treatment.

You will be provided with an information sheet regarding discharge instructions upon completion of your procedure.

Results:
The results together with the procedure report will be sent to your referring doctor. Return to your doctor to discuss examination results.

Radiation Risk
Most medical imaging tests, except MRI and ultrasound, involve exposure to radiation from X-rays. Your doctor considers that the benefits of the examination you require to be greater than the small risk posed by the radiation exposure.

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References
Inside Radiology: www.insideradiology.com.au
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®

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