What is an IVC Filter?
An IVC filter is a procedure involving the insertion of a small metal filter into the inferior vena cava (IVC) blood vessel to prevent blood clots from travelling to your heart or lungs. This procedure is performed if you are at risk of developing blood clots or have already developed blood clots in your legs which your doctor is concerned may move.

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.

During the procedure you will be lying on a bed in the angiography room. Your heart rate and blood pressure will be monitored during the procedure by nursing staff. You may also be given medication to keep you comfortable and relaxed during your procedure if you require it.
Inferior Vena Cava (IVC) Filter
Radiology Service

This procedure is performed by accessing a vein in your groin or neck. Your groin or neck will be cleaned with an antiseptic wash, and local anaesthetic will be used to numb a small section of skin. A small incision will be made and a small needle will be inserted through the numb patch of skin into the vein. A thin plastic tube called a sheath is then inserted into the vein and the needle is removed. You may feel some slight pressure in the groin or neck when inserting the sheath but it shouldn’t be painful. Once in place, you should not feel any pain or discomfort for the duration of the procedure.

The doctor will then insert a soft plastic tube called a catheter through the sheath and deploy the filter in its intended location.

Once the filter is in place, the sheath and catheter will be removed and the doctor will apply pressure to the puncture site to stop any bleeding which may occur. A small waterproof dressing will then be placed over the puncture site.

Post Procedure Care:
You will return to the day procedure recovery unit for the duration of your recovery where you will be monitored by the nursing staff.

If your groin was accessed, you will be required to lie flat for 2 hours after your procedure to prevent any bleeding from the puncture site before being discharged.

If your neck was accessed you will be required to sit up for 2 hours before being discharged.

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.

A future procedure will be required to remove the IVC filter once it is deemed no longer necessary by your medical team.

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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