What is cardiac angiography?

Angiography is performed on a number of infants and children to obtain more detailed information about a heart problem or to treat a heart condition (for example, valve stenosis) or to close holes between the atria or ventricles. In addition, angiography is a procedure that provides the most accurate information from the arteries and provides it to the surgeon before the operation. Therefore, we conclude that angiography is performed for two purposes:

- 1- Diagnostic
- 2- Intervention (therapy)

Dear Parents, Remember: Your child will be admitted to the hospital one or two days before the angiography and will be discharged the day after the angiography. So your baby will stay in the hospital for two nights. The child will be examined at the hospital by a doctor who will perform the angiography. ECG and echo are also performed. Angiography is performed in the "lip coat" section "Cardiac catheterization department".



What preparations does cardiac angiography require?

- Depending on the patient's age, in order to prepare him, he must refrain from eating and drinking for 4-8 hours prior to angiography.
- In case of suffering the patient from a specific illness, notify the doctor or the child's nurse.
- Your child may be monitored in the hospital for up to 24 hours.
- The baby shall receive a sedative injection by an anesthesiologist before going to the lip coat, which causes him to sleep heavily in the angiography room.
- The child will feel a slight burning sensation during the anesthesia, but after that the rest of the angiography procedure will not be painful for the patient.



What happens during cardiac angiography?

A catheter is a completely flexible plastic tube that is inserted into a vein or artery in the groin area and guided to the heart.

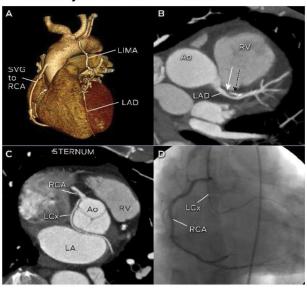
The presence of a catheter in the heart does not cause any special sensation and the child usually falls asleep.

Measurement of blood oxygen pressure and

blood samples from various cavities of the heart are recorded and reported.

Angiography is then performed in which a dye (contrast agent) is injected through a catheter and one or more films are removed that show the passage of the contrast agent through the heart.

This method shows defects and heart defects. This usually takes 1 to 1.5 hours.



When catheterization is performed to treat cardiac abnormalities, the procedure is very similar to that described above. For example, special catheters (catheters) with a balloon or device (spring or catheter) at the tip are used. In general, there are almost no major differences in diagnostic catheterization. This treatment is longer than diagnostic angiography and, like most cases, like diagnostic angiography, is less risky.

What care does the child need after cardiac angiography?

After angiography, the patient is transferred to the ward and in older children, a bag containing sand is placed on the groin for 3-4 hours to prevent bleeding in this area. During this period, the patient should lie still on the bed (depending on the doctor's opinion from 4-12 hours). If no special procedure such as angioplasty or surgery is considered, the patient can be discharged the day after the operation and can have normal activities and bathing.



Angiography is low risk with available facilities. However, in about 1% of cases, complications such as internal bleeding from the arterial incision, sensitivity to the contrast agent, coronary artery damage, etc... Occur. Angiography is usually mild and resolves quickly. No specific skin lesion remains at the angiographic site



Although the risk of heart catheterization is very low, there is a high risk of doing this procedure in children with complex heart defects, bruising of the lips and fingers, or shortness of breath and growth retardation. There is also the possibility of arterial injuries at the site of venipuncture, which sometimes requires invasive surgery. It takes 1-2 days to analyze all the information received from the cardiac catheterization, because the results of the angiography and possible treatment plans are also discussed with the heart surgeons, and then the final result is shared with the family to make the right decision for treatment of your child.



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