PVS Angiogram and Treatment

About the test
PVS (Peripheral Vascular System) angiogram is a test to check the blood vessels outside of your heart or brain to see how blood flows. Using x-rays and a medicine, called contrast, pictures of the blood flow in your body are taken to see if there is a problem. An angiogram may be done to check:

- Blockage of an artery or vein
- Your vessels before surgery

Based on your test results, you may have a treatment done to open up a blockage.

If you take any prescription medicines, you may need to change or stop certain medicines before this procedure. See the Medicine Review section in this handout for more information.

Important to tell us
It is important to tell your doctor and radiologist if you:

- Are pregnant, or think you might be
- Are allergic to contrast, iodine, or shellfish

These may affect if you can have the test or how you prepare for the test.

Medicine review
Diabetes Medicine

- If you take Glucophage (also called metformin), or any other medicine that has metformin in it, such as Fortamet, Glucophage XR, Glumetza, Riomet, Metaglip, Glucovance, Actoplus Met, Avandamet, PrandiMet, and Janumet:
  - Please talk with your doctor about blood sugar control before this test.
  - Do not take this medicine on the day of your test or surgery.
  - Do not take this medicine for 2 days after your test or surgery. Restart this medicine on the third day after your test or surgery.

- If you take insulin, talk to your doctor about any changes you may need to make for your test.

Blood Thinners

- If you take blood thinners, such as warfarin (Coumadin), your doctor may have you stop taking this medicine before your test.
To prepare for the test
• Blood work will be drawn within 30 days of your test.

The night before the test
• Shower the night before the test with the special soap you were given or antibacterial soap if you were not given soap.
• Pack a bag to stay at the hospital. If you have a procedure done during the test, you may need to stay overnight. This is explained later in this handout.
• Do not eat or drink anything after midnight before your test.

The day of the test
• Shower again the morning of the test with the same soap.
• Take your morning medicines with small sips of water unless told by your doctor not to take these medicines. If you take blood pressure medicine, be sure to take this medicine.
• Remember not to take Glucophage (also called metformin) or any other medicine that has metformin in it.
• You will need an adult to drive you home after the test. He or she should arrive with you before the test.
• Bring your medicines with you the day of the test if you are an outpatient.

During the test
• You will wear a hospital gown.
• You will lie on your back on a table.
• A small area of either your upper leg or upper arm will be cleaned. Sterile towels will be placed over the area to keep it clean.
• A local anesthetic (numbing medicine) will be injected under the skin in the area.
• A long, narrow tube, called a catheter, will be put into the blood vessel.
• A medicine, called contrast, which allows blood vessels to be seen with x-rays, is injected through the catheter. You may feel very warm for a few seconds as the contrast is injected.
• Please tell the staff if you have discomfort.
• A series of x-rays will be taken. The room may get noisy for a few seconds and the lights may turn on and off because of the x-ray camera.
• The injection and pictures may be repeated to check different blood vessels.
• You may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds at a time.
• When the test is finished, the catheter will be removed.
• Pressure will be held on the area where the catheter was inserted or a closure device may be used to prevent bleeding.
• The angiogram test often lasts 1 to 2 hours. More time is needed is a treatment is done.
Possible treatments

One of the following treatments may be done at the time of your angiogram based on your test results. All are done through a catheter like the one used for the angiogram. If you have one of these treatments, you may need to stay in the hospital overnight.

- **Stent placement**
  A small metal tube, called a stent, is placed at the site to help open the blockage. Most stents contain medicine that help to prevent blockage from returning.

- **Balloon angioplasty**
  A balloon is used at the site to crack open the blockage and push it to the side of the wall.

- **CryoPlasty**
  A balloon is also used to open the vessel, like angioplasty. The balloon is filled with nitrous oxide that cools the artery while it cracks open the blockage.

- **Atherectomy**
  The blockage is removed with a small cutting device or laser.

Your care after

Right after the test

- You will be taken to the recovery area to be checked for several hours before going home.
- You will lie quietly with your legs or arm straight based on where your catheter was placed.

When you go home (if you are an outpatient)

- A friend or family member must drive you home without making stops along the way.
- You should have someone stay with you overnight after your angiogram.
- Limit your movements after this test to help your recovery and prevent problems. Slowly begin to move more the next morning, but do not plan on working the day after your angiogram.

Caring for your catheter site

- You may have a lump about the size of a quarter or some bruising at the puncture site. This is normal and may last for several weeks.
- Remove your band-aid or dressing the morning after the test.
- Wait 24 hours to shower. When you do, wash the puncture site gently and pat it dry. Do not scrub the site.
- If you feel that you are going to cough, sneeze, or if you need to bear down for a bowel movement, apply gentle pressure to the puncture site with your hand.
Activity limits
You will have limits to the activities you can do after the test.
• Do not drive for 24 hours.
• Do not lift heavy objects for 48 hours from the time you leave the hospital.
• If the catheter was in your leg, limit bending at the waist for 48 hours.

Possible problems you could have after the test
• Bleeding
Bleeding may occur at your puncture site. Blood may spurt or drip from the site, or it may form a lump (hematoma or "goose-egg") under the skin.
  › If bleeding occurs: Lie down on your back as flat as possible. Have someone apply firm pressure using a gauze pad or a clean wash cloth to the puncture site for 10 to 15 minutes or until the bleeding has stopped. After the bleeding has stopped, continue to lie flat with your arm or leg straight for 60 minutes (depending on where the catheter was placed). When you get up, move slowly to keep from feeling light-headed.
  › If bleeding occurs a second time: Reapply pressure for 20 minutes if your puncture site was in an artery or 5 to 10 minutes if your site was a vein. Lie flat for 1 hour. If your bleeding has not stopped, call 911.

• Clot forms
Clots with artery damage can block circulation causing numbness, coldness, or pain in your arm or leg. If you have any of these symptoms, call the Division of Vascular Surgery at 614-293-8536. Someone is on call 24 hours a day.

• Infection
Contact your doctor if you have signs of infection at the puncture site. These signs include: fever above 100 degrees F, swelling, warmth, redness, pain, or drainage from the puncture site.

Contact Information
• If you have questions about this test, or you need to cancel or change your appointment, please call 614-293-4333.
• If you have any concerns after the test, call Division of Vascular Surgery at 614-293-8536. If you are not able to reach a doctor, call the The Ohio State University Hospital Emergency Department at 614-293-8333.

Call your doctor’s office for a follow-up appointment if one was not scheduled before the test.

Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.
For more health information, contact the Library for Health Information at 614-293-3707 or e-mail health-info@osu.edu.
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