

Peripheral arteriography

Peripheral arteriography is a radiologic exam used to diagnose peripheral arteriopathy. This disease is characterised by the narrowing (stenosis) or blockage of the peripheral arteries, i.e. the carotid artery, the renal artery, the visceral arteries (mesenteric or celiac) and especially the arteries of the legs (iliac, femoral popliteal or posterior tibial artery).

This procedure is performed under local anaesthesia, with extremely low risks, since it is minimally invasive. The catheter is introduced either at the basis of the leg or through the arm – at elbow level – or, rarely through the forearm. The catheter is manoeuvred, under imagistic control, through the blood veins, with the help of the angiograph, in the arteries targeted for investigation. Then, the contrast substance is injected and images are recorded in order to see exactly how the blood flows and to find the potential obstruction or stenosis.

The side effects that might occur during this procedure are either of an allergic nature (to the iodine in the contrast substance, in which case, the patient will receive an anti-allergic treatment, a few days before the intervention) or of a traumatic nature, i.e. a reduced risk of local haemorrhage.

This is why, before performing this procedure the doctors have to identify the potential coagulation deficiencies or allergies. After removing the catheter, the insertion area will be compressed and held under observation for 24 hours.