

Diagnostic Imaging



Information about having an

Embolisation procedure

What is an Embolisation procedure?

This is the blocking of the blood vessels that are causing problems within the body, embolisation causes them to shrink in size and disappear.

Who will do it?

A specially trained doctor called a Radiologist.

Where will it be done?

Usually in a screening room in the x-ray department.

When can I discuss the procedure?

You can discuss this with your consultant or doctor and also the Radiologist before the procedure.

Consent

We will ask you to sign a consent form before the procedure. Please make sure that you ask any questions you may have. When signing the form you should know what we plan to do, alternative treatments, and any risks or complication of the procedure.

What preparation is required before the procedure?

You cannot eat for 6 hours before the procedure but you may drink small amounts of clear fluid up to 2 hours before the procedure.

You will need to undress and wear a hospital gown.

What happens during the procedure?

You will need to lie on your back on the x-ray table.

We may give you sedatives or painkillers through a needle in your arm. We will monitor your vital signs (blood pressure, pulse, oxygen intake). You may need oxygen.

The radiologist will inject local anaesthetic into the groin or neck and will place a fine plastic catheter in the artery or vein through a very small incision (cut). The radiologist uses the catheter to find the arteries and, or veins supplying blood to the area that needs to be blocked. We use x-ray equipment for guidance.

We inject tiny particles or coils into the arteries or veins until the blood flow is stopped.

We remove the catheter and apply pressure to the groin or neck area to prevent bruising.

How long will it take?

Every patient's situation is different, for a variety of reasons. However you can expect to be in the x-ray department for about 1 to 2 hours.

What happens afterwards?

The procedure itself is relatively painless but most patients will experience some pain lasting up to 24 hours after the procedure. Painkillers can help.

The nursing staff in the department will monitor you and carry out routine observations on your blood pressure, pulse etc.

Most people are well enough to go home following the procedure. You should be able to return to work within a couple of days.

Nursing staff will also monitor the puncture site to make sure there is no bleeding.

Are there any risks and, or complications?

Early experience suggests the procedure is safe and serious complications are rare.

Pain is very common in the first 24 hours but painkillers can help.

There may be bruising in the groin or neck area where the artery or vein is punctured but this should settle after a few days.

If you have any questions please telephone the number on your appointment card or letter.