

Fistulogram

You and your doctor have determined you would benefit from an fistulogram. This procedure is typically performed when your dialysis fistula or graft is not working correctly or is at risk for shutting down. This is a minimally invasive procedure that utilizes x-rays to view blockages within your access. A catheter (thin tube) is inserted through the access itself. When it is in position dye is injected to look at your access and surrounding veins. If any blockages are seen your surgeon may choose to treat them using tiny devices such as balloons and stents. This is done without incisions.

Location

Fistulograms may be performed at our Orlando office, The Orlando Center for Outpatient Surgery, or the hospital. Often the decision on where to perform the procedure is based on your insurance guidelines. You will be instructed on the location and timing of your procedure by our surgery schedulers.

Before Surgery

1. You must take all prescribed medications as directed.
2. Nothing is to be taken by mouth starting at midnight (including water and coffee), the night before surgery, except prescribed medications with sips of water. We will inform you of the medications that should not be taken before surgery and when to stop them. Be sure our office is aware if you are taking any medications for diabetes (such as metformin/insulin) or blood thinners.

Day of Surgery

1. Fistulograms are typically an outpatient procedure; you will go home the same day.
2. You will need a driver to and from the procedure. You cannot be picked up by a ride-share service such as Uber or Lyft. This is because you may still be a little sleepy when you leave and you should be with someone you know.
3. There are many factors, beyond the control of your surgeon and staff, that determine when your procedure actually starts. This may lead to delays. Please be patient with the staff as they try to get your procedure started as soon as possible.

4. After the procedure is completed, the surgeon will come out and discuss how the case went. It is important that your loved one be available in person or by phone so that the surgeon can share this information.
5. You may or may not require sedation for this procedure. This will be decided by you and your surgeon. If you do receive sedation you will be monitored for at least 30 minutes after the procedure. If you do not receive sedation you will typically be discharged shortly after the procedure is completed. If needed, the sedation is given directly through your fistula or graft by the surgeon.

After Surgery

1. If you have sedation you must not be alone for the remainder of the day of your procedure and it is best to have someone with you overnight as well.
2. You may resume your normal diet and medications (except metformin which must be held for 48 hours after the procedure). If you are taking blood thinning medications (such as Coumadin, Xarelto, Eliquis, or Pradaxa) your physician will let you know when to resume.
3. You may continue activity as previous to your procedure, however, avoid getting the area wet for one day and avoid any activity that may result in rubbing over the access area.
4. You may return to driving 24 hours after the procedure if you have received sedation, otherwise there is no driving restriction.
5. You may resume your normal diet.
6. You may remove your dressing the day after the procedure. Keep your access site clean and dry. Do not apply creams or lotions to the area. Leave the site open to air.
7. You may have a bruise at the access site.
8. You may have some mild discomfort at the access site after the procedure. You may take Tylenol if needed.
9. We will remove any stitches you may have at your follow-up office visit. You may also have them removed at the dialysis center.

Contact Us:

1. Call us if your access site become swollen, bleeds, or appears not to be healing.
2. Severe pain is not common after a fistulogram. If you experience severe pain please contact us.
3. If you experience heavy bleeding from the access site, hold pressure and call 911.
4. Our office phone number is 407.648.4323. Our office is open 8AM to 5PM Monday through Friday. After hours you will be connected with one of our physicians through the answering service.
5. Further contact details are below and additional information can be found at www.arteryandvein.com.



It is important to us that our patients are able to easily contact us to schedule appointments or discuss any questions/concerns.

Our office phone number is **407.648.4323**. If you have any questions you can reach us between the hours of 8AM-5PM. If you have an urgent concern and need to call after hours you will reach one of our surgeons through our answering service. Answers to many common questions may also be found at www.arteryandvein.com.

GENERAL QUESTIONS CAN BE EMAILED TO: patients@arteryandvein.com