



Coronary Angioplasty

Brief Description of Procedure:

A coronary angioplasty is a nonsurgical procedure used to treat narrowings in the coronary arteries, which supply blood to the heart muscle. It is performed under x-ray guidance in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab. A PTCA may be done immediately following a cardiac catheterization or sometime later. The patient is given a mild sedative to help him relax but remains awake during the procedure to allow him to answer questions regarding his comfort level, any chest pain or shortness of breath. Medication is used to anesthetize (numb) the area where a small catheter will be inserted. A long flexible catheter is then advanced up to the heart. The narrowing is then crossed using a thin flexible wire. Using a variety of devices, the narrowing is treated and frequently a stent (small metal tube) is placed in the artery to hold open the narrowing. This takes approximately 30 minutes to one hour. After the angioplasty is completed, the catheter is removed and frequently a device is used to close the artery puncture. A band-aid or pressure dressing will be placed over the area where the catheter was inserted. The patient will be observed overnight.

Why Am I Having this Procedure?

A PTCA is a procedure that opens narrowed arteries to increase blood flow. A PTCA may be done instead of coronary artery bypass surgery depending upon the type and location of the narrowing, the extent of the disease and the risk involved.

What Symptoms May Be Experienced During This Procedure?

- A slight burning or stinging from the medicine used to numb the catheter insertion site.
- Slight discomfort or pressure as the catheter is being inserted.
- Slight nausea and or, extra heartbeats.
- Chest pain may occur as the balloon catheter is being inflated, but it is temporary.

Please call our office with additional questions.