

# Cerebral embolisation aftercare

Information for patients who have undergone femoral puncture

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## **Immediately following your procedure**

Immediately following your procedure, the neurointerventionalist (doctor) will close your puncture site, by either inserting an Angioseal or by putting pressure on the wound for 10 minutes.

## **What is an Angioseal?**

An Angioseal is a closure device that uses a collagen plug inserted into the wall of the femoral artery (the largest artery in the thigh) to stop the flow of blood. This will stay in place and dissolve within 90 days. You will need to carry a card with you (given to you upon discharge) during this period so that – in the unlikely event that you need further treatment, other doctors will know you that you have this device in place. No after care of this is necessary.

If the doctor has inserted an Angioseal, you will need to lie flat in your bed for 1-2 hours after the device has been inserted. You will then gently move around the ward for one hour, before being allowed to go home. We strongly recommend that you have someone to stay overnight at home with you.

## **What if I don't have an Angioseal fitted?**

If the doctor has pressed on your wound, they will apply pressure for 15 minutes. You will need to lie flat in your bed for four hours then gently move around the ward for a further two hours before you will be allowed to go home.

While you are recovering in your bed you will be asked to keep your head on the pillow. The bed can be elevated to a tilt of 30 degrees. You must keep your leg straight.

It is not advisable to put your chin on your chest, as this puts undue pressure on your groin and may make your puncture site bleed slightly.

During this recovery period you will be encouraged to press your hand over the puncture wound if you wish to cough, laugh or sneeze.

If your procedure was performed late in the day, you may need to stay overnight.

**It is not advisable to drive yourself home.**

## **What happens when I get home?**

A transparent dressing, called a tegaderm, will be placed over your puncture site. This is transparent so that any bleeding from the wound can be seen clearly.

You may remove this dressing in the shower after two days. Let the water run over the wound and pat it dry. The wound should then be dry. If this is not the case and you have any cause for concern, please contact your GP for further advice.

To prevent infection, you are advised to shower and not to bathe for the next few days, so that you are not submerging the wound in water.

For 48 hours following your embolisation, you will be advised to take things a little easier than usual (e.g. no heavy lifting, deep squats, horse riding or cycling).

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the department.

Telephone: **0131 312 0863** or **0131 312 0858**

Should you require out-of-hours advice, please contact NHS 24 by phoning: **111**

If there is an immediate concern or emergency, please visit your local Accident and Emergency (A&E) department or call **999** and ask for an ambulance.

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**My Notes:**