

Radiation risk for angiogram

Information for patients

The procedure you will be attending for is an **angiogram**. This procedure will help your doctor make a diagnosis, treat an abnormality or monitor the progress of your treatment. To guide us during the procedure we use x-rays, the benefits of using x-ray guidance for the procedure are thought to outweigh the very low risk from the x-rays themselves.

Every day we are exposed to some natural background radiation from the air we breathe, the food we eat, the environment we live in and even from flying on a plane. Each medical x-ray gives us a small additional dose on top of this natural background radiation. The angiogram you will be having is equivalent to 1 year of natural background radiation. It is important to note that the amount of x-rays used will carry a low risk.

Background radiation equivalent to treatment:

- **8 months for a single aneurysm angiogram (i.e. diagnostic OR check)**
- **1 year for aneurysm angiograms (both check and diagnostic together)**
- **1-2 years for aneurysm treatment**
- **2 years for a single AVM angiogram**
- **3 years for AVM angiogram (both check and diagnostic together)**
- **3-4 years for AVM treatment.**