Cardiac Catheterization

Is a test to assess the heart’s blood supply and to evaluate how it is functioning. It is done by inserting a catheter or tube into an artery in your femoral artery (leg) or radial artery (arm) and taking pictures using an x-ray machine after dye is pushed through the vessels. When the dye is injected you may notice a warm or hot sensation throughout your body. The procedure lasts an average of 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Before Procedure

All patients awaiting cardiac catheterization are placed on the Cardiac Care Network registry. The registry is designed to ensure that patients receive timely access to cardiac care. The wait time for cardiac procedures varies depending on the number and urgency of patients on the list. If the wait is unacceptably long, you may wish to consider other options with your Cardiac Care Coordinator.

Appointment Scheduling

You will receive a phone call to book your procedure as soon as possible. Please note it may be necessary to reschedule the procedure due to more urgent in-hospital patients. It is very important that you confirm the date of your procedure the day before it is scheduled.

Please call the booking secretary (613)-548-1328, between 2 and 3 PM the day before the procedure to confirm the procedure date and time. (Friday for a Monday procedure)

Medications to Stop Before Procedure:

Warfarin (Coumadin) stop 5 days before procedure. You will be contacted when to stop.

Pradaxa (Dabigatran) you will need to stop this medication as directed by your doctor, usually 2 days.

Xarelto (Rivaroxaban) you will need to stop this medication as directed by your doctor, usually 2 days.

Elliquis (Apixiban) you will need to stop this medication as directed by your doctor, usually 2 days.

Metformin stop 2 days before and after your procedure.

Aggrenox (Aspirin and Dipyridamole) you will need to stop this medication as directed by your doctor, usually 2 doses.

You will be advised when to restart these medications after the procedure.

Your Cardiologist may give you a sample supply of a medication called PLAVIX (Clopidigrel) if so take as directed the day before your procedure.
Procedure Day

♥ You may have breakfast.

♥ Take your medications as usual, unless otherwise instructed.

♥ Bring a list of all medications/vitamins that you take with you to the hospital.

♥ Bring your health card.

♥ Patients with Diabetes should take insulin and diabetic medication as directed by your Cardiologist on the day of the procedure. (Exception: Do not take Metformin)

♥ Report to the patient registration desk of KGH. Located on the main floor of the hospital in the Armstrong building. You should arrive at ________________.

♥ After check in take the elevators to the third floor and proceed to the Cardiac Procedures Unit located on Kidd 3. When you arrive please use the phone outside the door to let staff know you have arrived.

♥ The procedure may take 30 minutes to 1 hour.

♥ There will be a recovery period of 1 to 4 hours after the procedure.

♥ There is a waiting area outside the Cardiac Procedures Unit for your family.

♥ Your physician will discuss the results of the procedure with you and update your family.

♥ Please plan to be at the hospital for the day, there can be delays due to emergencies.

After Procedure

♥ You will be returned to one of our post procedure units for recovery and discharge, or you may be admitted to the hospital for observation.

♥ If discharged and you reside more than a 60 minute drive from the hospital, you must arrange to stay in Kingston the night of the procedure. We can provide a list of local hotels and motels.

♥ Do not drive for 48 hours after the procedure.

♥ You cannot be alone the night of your procedure. Please arrange for someone to stay with you in case of unexpected complications.

♥ If you develop bleeding at the procedure site, pressure needs to be applied to the site to stop the bleeding.

♥ If you feel sudden pain or notice swelling at your procedure site, please notify the nurse immediately or if at home return to the hospital.

♥ Call 911 for assistance if needed.
One of four outcomes could be the result of the cardiac catheterization:

1- Normal Coronary Arteries
   You will be discharged. Please follow up with your family doctor.

2- Medical Treatment
   You may be advised to manage your health with medications and lifestyle changes.

3- Angioplasty with or without coronary stenting.
   You may be discharged home after having a stent placed or you may be admitted to a post procedure unit for an overnight stay.

If admitted to the hospital you will be responsible for transportation home the next morning before 10:00 am. A list of hotel accommodations can be provided for family members from out of town.

If you have a stent placed, you will receive a prescription for Plavix (Clopidogrel) or Ticagrelor (Brilinta)
   It is important that you take this medication as directed by your doctor.

4- Heart Surgery:
   Dependent on urgency you will be admitted to KGH, discharged home, or transferred back to your community hospital to wait for surgery. Your cardiac care coordinator will contact you or your hospital staff with instructions.

   Your contact at this point will be your Regional Cardiac Care Coordinator at 613-548-1399 ext. 1

Medications to Restart After your Procedure:

Warfarin (Coumadin) the evening of your procedure at your usual dose or as directed by your doctor.
Metformin 2 days after the procedure at your usual dose or as directed by your doctor.
Pradaxa (Dabigatran) as directed by your doctor.
Xarelto (Rivaroxaban) as directed by your doctor.
Eliquis (Apixaban) as directed by your doctor.
Aggrenox (Aspirin and Dipyridamole) the evening of your procedure at your usual dose or as directed by your doctor.

Interested in Quitting Smoking?

Whether you’re thinking about quitting smoking, trying to quit smoking, trying to support someone who is quitting, or just looking for support in the community, the Tobacco Information line at KFL&A Public Heath can help. Call them at 613-549-1232 or 1-800-267-7875, ext. 1333
Parking at Kingston General Hospital

Where do I park?
Whether you’re here for a long stay or a short one, you have several parking options to choose from.

Underground parking
The Queen’s University underground garage is located on Stuart Street, directly across from the hospital's main entrance. It’s open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can access the hospital from the lot either by crossing the street, or via the tunnel link under Stuart Street, open daily from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Week-long parking passes are available at the KGH security office.

Above-ground parking
Short-term lots
We have short-term parking lots near the hospital's main entrance on Stuart Street and at the Armstrong Centre entrance off of Lower University Avenue.

Pay-and-display spaces
Pay-and-display parking spaces - on-street and in parking lots - are available around the hospital and throughout the downtown core. Maximum stay lengths vary between one and three hours. You’ll need to pay from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday – Saturday.

Hourly rates vary by location.

Accessible parking
Disabled parking spaces are available in the Queen’s University underground garage and in the short-term lots.

For special needs please notify hospital security 613-548-3232.

Parking rates are subject to change without notice and are not regulated by KGH.