

Going home after your Femoral Arterial Access Procedure

Care of access site

Know what your access site looks and feels like before you leave the hospital. You may notice bruising, soreness and swelling at your access site. This will heal over time.

- Do not let your access site go under water for at least 3 days.
- Do not go in swimming pools or hot tubs for 1 week.
- You may have a shower the morning after the procedure.
- You may have a bath after the access site is healed. Healing is when the access site is dry with no open areas and no drainage. This is usually within 72 hours.
- Change the bandage over the access site daily until it is healed over.
- Do not lift anything heavier than 10 pounds or 4.5 kilograms for the next 48 hours.

Medications

Be sure to take all of your regular medications, unless otherwise directed by your doctor or nurse. You may be told not to take blood thinners or pills for diabetes for a day or two after an arterial procedure.

Before you leave the hospital, make sure all of your questions regarding your medications are answered. Contact your doctor if you have any more questions after you are home.

Call your doctor if you notice

- Numbness, pain or coldness in your leg.
- An increase in bruising or swelling from when you left the hospital.
- If you develop a lump smaller than a golf ball at the access site.
- Redness, warmth to touch or pus draining from the access site.
- Fever or chills.

If your doctor is not available, go to an Urgent Care Centre.

If you develop any sudden severe pain or notice bright red blood at the access site or a sudden lump develops that is larger than a golf ball:

- Apply firm pressure to the area and call 911.

Follow-up appointments

- Make an appointment to see your family doctor in one week to check the access site.
- Make an appointment to see the specialist (who sent you for this procedure) when he or she has indicated.