

What is a AV shuntogram?

A shuntogram is a radiological study in which a contrast agent is injected into the AV graft.

Common reasons for a shuntogram:

Occasionally, AV grafts may develop strictures or blockages. A shuntogram helps visualize inside the graft. Once a problem is identified, the doctor may try to fix the problem. Each situation is different.

Patient Preparation:

Your shuntogram will either be scheduled or done on the day a problem arises. Again, each case is different. If you are scheduled as an outpatient, you may be asked not to take Coumadin for 2 days, and other blood thinners for 4 days unless you have had a recent stent placed. If you have had a reaction to IV contrast in the past, please notify the person scheduling your test. We may need you to take medication to prevent a reaction.

What to expect:

First you will be asked to report to SDS (Same Day Services) on the 1st floor. There, you will be asked to put on a gown, have lab work drawn, and an IV started. We will need to wait for the results of the lab work. Next, you will go to the radiology department. Your arm will be numbed and access to the shunt will be obtained. The shunt will be visualized and possibly fixed. This can take anywhere from an hour to three hours, again, depending on each individual case.

After the exam:

If you are scheduled for dialysis, we may send you to the renal department with your shunt still accessed. If you are not scheduled for dialysis, the accesses will be removed. Once the bleeding is stopped, you will be sent back to our SDS department to recover.

Risks:

There are few risks. The biggest risks are bleeding, damage to the graft, infection, or reaction to the contrast. Reactions range from hives to-very rarely-anaphylaxis and even death.

Report/Results:

A Radiologist, a physician experienced in radiology exams, will interpret the images. A report will be available to physicians within 24 hours on routine exams. A signed report with the interpretation will also be sent to the healthcare provider that ordered the test. You may check with your ordering physician for the report.

AV SHUNTOGRAM

A Patient's Guide to
Radiological Exams



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