



Coronary angiography/cardiac catheterisation

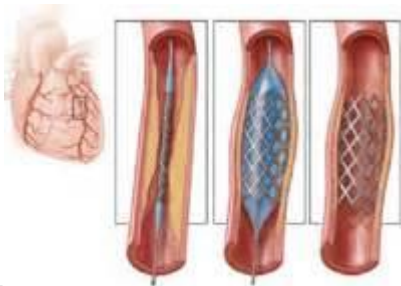
Dear patient,

Cardiac catheterisation is used to determine whether the cause of your symptoms (e.g. chest pain, tightness in the heart, shortness of breath or water accumulation in the legs) is a result of a disease/malformation of the heart. These symptoms could be caused by diseases of the coronary arteries or heart valves or congenital heart disease.

Only when the type and severity of the disease is known can decisions with respect to treatment be made. The test can be used to determine whether drug treatment, an interventional procedure (intervention performed with catheter, such as stent implantation) or a surgical procedure (e.g. bypass surgery) is the best course of action for you. It may also be the case that your symptoms are not the result of a heart condition.

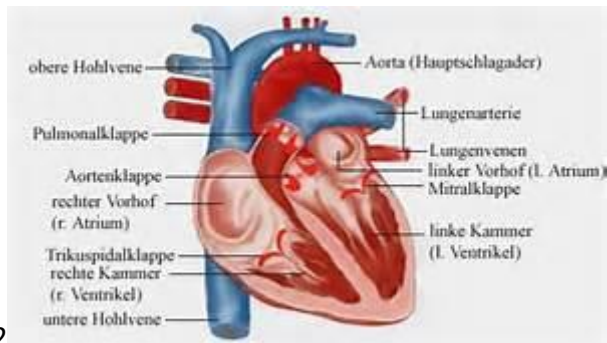
Cardiac catheterisation is also carried out as preparation for a planned surgical procedure, such as a heart valve replacement.

In an emergency situation (heart attack) the affected, often blocked vessel is opened by means of cardiac catheter and protected with a stent. A recanalisation wire is usually placed on the occlusion, and the vessel is dilated with a balloon before a stent is implanted (Figure 1).



1

The heart consists of a right and a left half and has a total of four heart chambers that perform different functions (Figure 2). The side of the heart that is examined depends on your symptoms and on the specific findings. With the cardiac catheter, the pressure conditions are measured in the interior of the heart and vessels near the heart. If necessary, small blood samples are removed in order to determine the oxygen saturation of the blood. Based on these values, conclusions can be drawn about the function of the heart and the cardiac valves, among other things.



2

Most commonly, left heart catheterisation is performed for the imaging and treatment of the coronary arteries. To investigate the left heart, after local anaesthesia, a thin catheter is usually inserted into an artery on the right or left wrist (radial artery). In some cases, the artery below the groin (femoral artery) must be punctured.

Cardiac catheterisation is performed at INCCI Luxembourg. The preparation and organisation of the investigation is done in collaboration with the CHdN Ettelbruck.

For further questions, please contact your attending cardiologist.

Groupe Cardiologique Ettelbruck