

TMA Vascular Access Center

1597 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA

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July 2016 Newsletter

What is a Venogram???

A Venogram is a diagnostic tool to visualize your blood vessels. Dye is injected and the blood flow is observed as x-rays are taken. These pictures aid the surgeon in creating your vascular access.

The preparation for the test does not require fasting. You can take your medication the morning of your appointment and eat.

After check-in at the TMA Access center, an IV will be started to provide a route for the dye injection during the Venogram. The Interventional Nephrologist will explain the procedure and afterwards will review the results with you and answer any questions you may have.



Question of the Quarter:

What is an Access Flow?

Daily exam of your peripheral access:

Daily you should examine your dialysis fistula or dialysis graft for complications. What should you look for???

1. **Feel the fistula or graft for the pulse (thrill)** going through it. It is the vibration or “buzz” sensation of the blood flowing through your access. If it is absent or diminished there is a problem.
2. **Inspect the skin around and over your access.** Is it red? Is there an opening? Is there drainage? Is there tenderness? Are there scabs? Is there swelling? These observations can indicate an infection.
3. Observe for **aneurysms** of your fistula and **pseudoaneurysms** of your graft. These are caused by placing needles in the same site over and over again.



4. **Is your access hand or fingers cold or numb?** Numbness in your hand and finger of the access arm can be an indicator of Steal Syndrome. Changes in warmth, color or sensation should be reported to your dialysis team.

TMA Vascular Access Center (www.tmaaccess.com)

Did you know our successful procedure rate is 99.98%???

Visit our website listed above for more information about the TMA Vascular Access Center.