



ST. VINCENT CHARITY  
MEDICAL CENTER

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*A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System*

**GUIDELINES FOR REFERRED OUTPATIENT CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION  
FOR YOUR CARE AFTER THE PROCEDURE**

1. Your cardiac catheterization was done without any cutting. There was only a puncture to your femoral artery. This will be fully healed by the morning after your cardiac catheterization. You should take care not to over exert yourself on the evening of your procedure. Avoid driving if possible in the evening after you go home. At home, avoid heavy lifting and try not to do too much walking the evening after you have had your cardiac catheterization. By morning, your site will be fully healed and you should be able to perform unlimited activities.
2. If you have had your cardiac catheterization as an outpatient, you will be sent home with a bandage in place. In the morning after your cardiac catheterization you can remove the bandage.
3. There should be no active bleeding on the day after your cardiac catheterization. Minor oozing from the site is just fluid from the tissues and does not represent bleeding. On occasions, at the time of the cardiac catheterization, some blood leaks into the tissues in the thigh and several days later this might turn black and blue. This mark might seem to spread down to the knee and on rare occasions lower than the knee. This represents blood that has already been in your tissues from the time of the cardiac catheterization and does not represent new bleeding. It might be slightly tender and Tylenol or Advil would be acceptable to take. This will all eventually resolve and the leg will be entirely normal.
4. Call my office immediately if there is any sign of active bleeding or swelling above the thigh the night after your cardiac catheterization or the following day.
5. There might be occasional mild swelling of the leg that occurs one or two days after the procedure and this can be normal. However, if you notice ANY difference in the size of your leg, please report this to my office.
6. It is important to remember that a cardiac catheterization is a safe procedure and the above signs are only to give you guidelines to watch for. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to call my office.

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PHYSICIAN

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OFFICE PHONE NUMBER