



## PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

### CARDIAC CATHETERISATION

The test to detect the presence of coronary artery disease is called "coronary angiography." It is most commonly referred to as a cardiac catheterisation. The two terms are used interchangeably. The procedure is performed under local anaesthetic, your cardiologist will decide if he will involve an anaesthetist and sedation. The procedure involves inserting a short plastic tube with a one way valve called a sheath into an artery in the groin, wrist or elbow. Your doctor will select the most appropriate site for you. However we most commonly use the right wrist or the right groin. Through the sheath, thin flexible hollow tubes called catheters are threaded over a guide wire and positioned under X-ray in the heart and/or coronary arteries. A liquid contrast (X-ray dye) is injected through the catheter and X-ray video pictures are taken. The test reveals if any of the coronary arteries are narrowed or blocked by plaque (fatty) deposits. At the same time the pumping chamber and valves on the left side of the heart are examined for any abnormalities.

You are not permitted to drive after having sedation therefore you will need someone responsible to take you home.

### PERCUTANEOUS CORONARY INTERVENTION (PCI)

PCI involves opening a narrowed or blocked segment of coronary artery by insertion of a small balloon catheter via the femoral artery in the groin (or the radial artery located in the arm). The procedure is performed under local anaesthetic your cardiologist will decide if he will involve an anaesthetist and sedation.

A fine guidewire is introduced through a guide catheter into the coronary artery. A balloon catheter is then inserted over the wire and positioned across the narrowed / blocked segment (A). The balloon is then inflated (B). This procedure opens the narrowed artery by compressing the fatty material (plaque) against the wall of the artery and restores blood flow to the area of the heart (C) previously deprived by the narrowed or occluded artery.



It is not uncommon to experience some angina during inflation of the balloon as the coronary artery is temporarily occluded and the heart muscle is deprived of oxygen. This only lasts for a very brief period of time and resolves as soon as the balloon is deflated.

At the same time a stent may be placed in the coronary artery. A stent is a small stainless steel mesh tube that supports the coronary artery and maintains patency.

This procedure will involve an overnight stay.