

## **INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS CONSENTING TO CARDIAC CATHETERISATION**

### **WHAT IS CARDIAC CATHETERISATION?**

This is a procedure which enables Dr Davis to gain specific information about your heart arteries and valves. The more common procedure is called a left heart catheter. This is done by passing tiny catheters through a major artery, usually in the groin or sometimes via the arm or wrist, directly to the main heart arteries as well as into the main pumping chamber or left ventricle. Some patients may also require a right heart catheter which involves passing similar catheters through a major vein, usually in the groin, towards the heart and lungs.

### **WHY DO YOU NEED CARDIAC CATHETERISATION**

Left heart Cardiac Catheterisation is the only definite way of determining whether you have any narrowing in your heart arteries and how severe the problem is. It will also help determine what would be the best treatment if any narrowing is found in your arteries. You may have had symptoms of chest discomfort or shortness of breath and cardiac catheterisation will determine if this is caused by any problems with the heart arteries, valves or the main heart pumping chamber. Right heart catheterisation may be required in some patients to determine the severity of any heart valve problems.

### **ARE THERE ANY RISKS?**

Cardiac Catheterisation is a commonly performed procedure but still carries important risks. Most procedures are uncomplicated; however there are some risks which you need to be aware of:

- Bleeding occasionally occurs from the puncture site in the groin area. This may be immediate or occur later. There may be bruising in the groin area sometimes spreading down the leg in the days after the procedure.
- There is a small risk of a serious complication such as heart attack, stroke or death and this is known to occur in about 1 in 1000 patients
- There are other rare complications such as bleeding into the abdomen or other complications affecting the circulation in the limb used for the puncture site. Sometimes surgery may be required to treat these complications.
- There is a risk of allergy to the dye or a change in heart rhythm that may need treatment.

Please discuss any other concerns with Dr Davis.

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