

PROTOCOL FOR: <u>Cardiac Catheterization: Post Procedure Care of the Patient</u>
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**PURPOSE:** To outline nursing responsibilities in the care of patients after a cardiac catheterization.

**SUPPORTIVE DATA:** While the incidence of complications is small, patients undergoing a cardiac catheterization can experience systemic hemodynamic changes, as well as peripheral changes at the site of catheter insertion.

**DESIRED  
PATIENT OUTCOMES:**

1. Patient will experience no hematoma formation at arterial catheter insertion site.
2. Patient will experience no changes in circulatory, motor, or sensory function in extremity where catheter was placed.

**ASSESSMENT AND  
NURSING CARE:**

1. Assess cardiovascular function using the following schedule: q 15 minutes x 4, q 30 minutes x 4, q 1 hour x 2, then routine or per MD/LIP order. Assess for changes in vital signs bleeding or hematoma at catheter insertion site and circulation, motor and sensation changes in extremity where catheter was placed.
2. Position patient in supine position, head gatched no more than 30°, and leg with insertion site extended, not flexed. Bedrest as per MD/LIP order for four to six hours.
3. Administer intravenous hydration as per MD/LIP order, as well as encourage fluids.

**REPORTABLE  
CONDITIONS:** Notify MD/LIP for:

1. Bleeding at catheter site.
2. Swelling/hematoma at catheter site.
3. Circulation, motor and sensation changes in extremity.
4. Vital sign changes (parameters specified in post procedure orders).
5. Chest pain.

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6. Heart rhythm changes

7. Urinary retention.

**EMERGENCY**

- SITUATION:**
1. If bleeding occurs at the arterial catheter insertion site, apply firm, constant pressure while waiting for the House Officer or attending physician.
  2. Obtain stat H/H; T&S if not already done if blood loss appears excessive.

- DOCUMENTATION:**
1. Document findings and interventions on the appropriate forms: Unit Flowsheet, database, MAR.
  2. Document patient response in progress notes every shift x 24 hours, then per Unit/Department Documentation Standards.

**APPROVAL:** Nursing Standards Committee  
Med/Surg Standards Committee  
ICU Standards Committee  
Cardiac Step-Down Standards Committee

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 12/90

**REVISION DATES:** 8/93, 8/96, 8/99, 1/02, 10/2009