

What to expect for your Interventional Radiology (IR) procedure

Who is IR? Interventional Radiology doctors use images (pictures) to perform minimally invasive procedures.

The procedure you are scheduled for does not require sedation (medication that makes you feel relaxed and sleepy, but still awake). To keep you comfortable, we numb the area before starting. You might feel a brief pinch/stinging with numbing, but after that, you will mostly feel pressure or movement. If you have concerns about your comfort, please call to talk about this with a staff member.

Before you arrive:

- Arrival time
 - The day before your scheduled procedure, you will get a phone call from the nursing staff with your arrival time
 - Your arrival time is NOT the same as the procedure start time. You are scheduled to arrive 1-2 hours before your procedure so we can get you ready. Please come at your scheduled arrival time. Do not arrive earlier.
- Eating and drinking guidelines
 - You may eat and drink normally
- Medications
 - Aspirin/Plavix/Blood thinners: You should have already received specific instructions during the scheduling process. If you are unsure please call the IR department prior to your appointment to make sure you have the correct instructions. Your procedure may be rescheduled if the hold times are not followed.
 - Blood pressure medication: Continue them unless you were told otherwise. If your blood pressure is too high the morning of the procedure it may have to be rescheduled.
 - Take other medications only as instructed
- What to bring
 - Photo ID and insurance card
 - A list of your current medications
 - Comfortable clothing

Day of the procedure

- Check in
 - Go to the radiology reception in the basement of the hospital. The receptionist will verify your information and give you forms to fill out.
- IR holding area
 - You will change into a gown. A nurse will review your forms and ask you additional questions. They will start an IV if needed and give you instructions about what to expect after the procedure.
 - You will meet with the Physician Assistant (PA) and Interventional Radiology Physician who will explain what to expect in the procedure. They will have you sign a consent form.

After the procedure

- Return to IR holding area
 - Recovery time varies depending on the procedure, generally 1-2 hours
- Discharge home
 - We recommend you rest at home after your procedure. Some patients may be able to return to work the same day after discussion with the doctor.

This paper gives general information. If you have specific questions regarding *your* specific procedure, please call our scheduler to set up a phone call with one of our staff 718-250-6056.