

What to expect for your Interventional Radiology (IR) procedure

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

Most, but not all patients get “Moderate Conscious Sedation” this means you will feel relaxed and sleepy but you will still be awake. You will NOT be fully asleep for the procedure. All patients get numbing medicine to keep them more comfortable. The doctor will discuss the use of sedation with you on the day of the procedure.

Before you arrive:

- **Arrival time**
 - The day before your scheduled procedure, you will get a phone call from a nurse to tell you the 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**
 - Do NOT eat or drink anything after midnight before your procedure
 - We cannot give sedation if you have eaten
 - You may take your pills that morning with a SMALL sip of only water. Only take the pills we tell you to take.
- **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: Keep taking them unless you were told to stop. 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
 - A responsible adult to bring you home

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 may start an IV and will give you instructions about what to expect after the procedure.
 - You will meet 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 depends on the procedure and sedation. Most patients are monitored 1-4 hours after the procedure.
- **Discharge home**
 - After receiving sedation, you should plan to rest for the day. Do not go to work, drive, or make important/legal decisions.

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.