



The Surgical Institute
at True North

CHE MILLER MD | KAYLA WATKINS-JONES MD
BRETT LOCKE APRN

What is a Fistulagram?

How will the day go for me?

Date of procedure: _____

Arrival Time: The hospital staff will contact you the day before your procedure and give you an exact time of arrival. If you have not been contacted by 4:00 PM please call the hospital at (580) 251-8449 or our office at (580) 255-9797.

Expected length of procedure: There will be 30 minutes of prep time. The surgery will take approximately 30 minutes and you will be in recovery for 30 additional minutes.

What happens after I arrive?

- You will check in at the Radiology Department (see map included in packet).
- Pre-op laboratories/imaging will be completed if not previously performed.
- A nurse will confirm your history, start your IV and fluids will be given.
- Your surgeon will visit with you prior to your procedure and answer any questions you have.
- Anesthesia will arrive to review your history and take you to the operating room.
- Anesthesia will be administered and the surgery will begin.

Fistulagram

What is a Fistulagram?

• A fistulagram is a test to look for abnormal areas in the dialysis graft or arteriovenous fistula that may be causing problems with dialysis. These may include areas of blocked veins or arteries (occlusion), abnormal narrowing (stenosis), or areas of abnormal enlargement (pseudoaneurysm).

The Procedure

• Moderate sedation anesthesia is used during the procedure. A small tube (catheter) is placed in the graft. X-ray dye is injected and radiographic pictures (the fistulagram) are taken of the area. The pressure in the graft is measured because high pressures can alert us to significant abnormalities. If abnormal narrowing is seen, it is usually treated by stretching the narrowed area open with the inflation of a small balloon in the graft (angioplasty). At the end of the procedure the catheter is removed and pressure is held over the puncture site. Dressings are then applied.

