



Cardiac Catheterization

1.0 WHAT IS IT?

A cardiac catheterization with angiography (angiogram) is a test where a thin tube (catheter) is inserted through the groin or arm and guided to the heart, where contrast dye is injected. Using continuous X-ray imaging (fluoroscopy), doctors can see how the heart and its vessels work, measure pressures and saturations, and evaluate the coronary arteries.

2.0 HOW SAFE IS IT FOR ME?

Cardiac catheterization is rarely needed during pregnancy and is only done if essential for the mother's health. It is usually safe. Because it is an invasive test, there are a few small risks, and your doctor will discuss these with you before the procedure.

3.0 ISSUES FOR THE MOTHER

For mothers, the risks are the same as for any heart catheterization: a small chance of bleeding, infection, vessel damage, or reaction to the dye. Serious problems like heart attack or stroke are very rare.

4.0 ISSUES FOR THE BABY

The main risks for the baby are from X-ray exposure used during the procedure, but special precautions are taken to minimize these, and the test is only done if necessary

5.0 MEDICAL CARE DURING PREGNANCY AND DELIVERY

If a cardiac catheterization is needed during pregnancy, it is done in a specialized hospital with doctors experienced in caring for pregnant women. Special shields and techniques are used to reduce X-ray exposure, and both mother and baby are carefully monitored to keep the procedure as safe as possible.