

Dr RML Hospital, New Delhi

Department of Cardiology

Cardiac Cath Lab

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**1. What is Coronary Angiography.**

It is a test to know blockage in the blood vessels of your heart.

**2. How is coronary angiography done.**

It is done under local anaesthesia. A catheter is introduced by needle puncture in the artery in the forearm or thigh & taken to the heart. Then contrast agent is injected into the heart arteries by the catheter & X-ray pictures are taken. It shows areas of blockage in blood vessels of the heart. It is only a test, it does not open the blocks. Typically it takes 20 minutes to complete the procedure. Patient is discharged on the same day.

**3. What is a stent.**

It is a metallic wire mesh which helps in opening the blocks. It is available in various designs. It can be a bare metal stent without any drug coating or a drug eluting stent. The drug coating reduces the chances of reblockage at the stent site.

**4. What is coronary stenting procedure.**

Obstruction to flow of blood occurs when block in the coronary artery is 70% or more. It can be opened in suitable cases without surgery by Balloon Angioplasty with stenting. In this procedure a wire is passed across the block with a balloon threaded over it. Balloon is inflated across the block to make a passage. Then a stent mounted on balloon is positioned over block & balloon is inflated. It expands the stent which acts like a scaffold & keeps the block open. The stent remains in the body & becomes part of body over time. The patient is discharged the next day.

**5. What is the cost of this procedure.**

The bare metal stent cost Rs 8319/-

The drug eluting stents cost Rs 20000,23625.00 & Rs 31250.00 per unit. These can be made in India, Europe CE marked or USFDA approved. The ceiling price of stents is decided by Govt. of India.

A one time amount of Rs 20,000.00 is to be added to the total cost of stents. This is the cost of other items apart from stents used in the procedure.

#### **6. What is the procedure of payment.**

A written estimate is given to the patient & the amount is to be deposited in the account of Medical Superintendent in the bank either at the counter or by digital transaction.

#### **7. Any facility for poor patients.**

Primary angioplasty with drug eluting stent is "free" to poor patients in emergency during Heart Attack.

Non emergency Patients below poverty line (BPL) can avail benefit of National Illness Assistance Fund of Government of India.