



Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Embolization

How should I prepare for this procedure?

- You must not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your procedure. A sip of water with certain approved medications is the only thing acceptable to be taken by mouth.
- For Gainesville procedures, you will need to arrive an hour and a half before your scheduled appointment time. For Braselton procedures, you will need to arrive an hour to an hour and a half before your scheduled appointment time. For Barrow procedures, you will need to arrive an hour before your scheduled appointment time.
- A nurse from the Interventional Radiology department will reach out to you via phone the day before your procedure.
- For your safety, you must have a caregiver or responsible adult with you to drive you home after your procedure. Due to the effects of anesthesia, sedation, or other post-procedural effects, you will not be able to drive yourself. Additionally, the responsible adult accompanying you will assume responsibility for you upon discharge. This person should be someone who can provide support and care as needed while you recover.
- Please ensure both the left and right groin are shaved and prepped for this procedure.
- Blood thinners need to be held for this procedure. You will need to check with your primary care provider that it is acceptable for your blood thinners to be held for this procedure.

What should I expect when I arrive?

- For Gainesville, you will go to the registration department in the Blue tower of the hospital. When you arrive in the main lobby of the Blue tower, go down the hallway on your left. The registration department is located on the right. Labs will be drawn here if necessary.
- For Braselton, you will go in through the main entrance and check in at the desk. You will be directed to registration from there. Labs will be drawn here if necessary.
- For Barrow, you will go to the registration desk located inside the main entrance of the hospital.
- After registration, you will go to the radiology waiting room. A staff member will show you back to the Interventional Radiology department. Your driver can accompany you back to the prep area.
- A provider and nurse will explain the procedure, go over discharge instructions, and decide what medications can be safely given. An IV for medication administration will be placed.
- When it is time to go to the IR lab for your procedure, your driver will be shown to the waiting room.
- In certain cases, a foley catheter may be placed.
- A nurse will check both the left and right groin to ensure they are prepped for this procedure.

What medications will be offered during this procedure?

- Moderate sedation is commonly offered for this procedure. However, medications offered will be dependent on provider discretion the day of your procedure. Moderate sedation is intended



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to make you comfortable and help with any pain. However, you will be awake for this procedure.

- The medications commonly used for moderate sedation are Versed and Fentanyl.
- In special circumstances, general anesthesia is offered for this procedure. This is decided at your consultation, not the day of your procedure.

What should I expect during my procedure?

- Your nurse will take you to the IR lab when it is time for your procedure.
- You will be positioned on the IR lab table on your back and covered with a sterile drape.
- The doctor will be paged to the room when your nurse and IR team is ready. Your nurse will give you medication through your IV to help relax you.
- The doctor will numb the area with a local anesthetic and then a needle will be inserted into one of the large blood vessels in your groin (*femoral blood vessel*).
- A catheter will be inserted into the needle and guided to the area that needs to be treated.
- Dye will be injected through the catheter, and X-rays will be taken. This helps to show the exact location of the blood vessels that are causing the problem.
- The embolic agent will then be injected through the catheter to the exact area of bleeding or abnormality.
- More X-rays will be taken to make sure the blood vessel has been blocked.
- The catheter will be removed, and pressure will be applied to the puncture site to stop any bleeding.
- Sometimes, your doctor may use a closure device to seal the small hole in the femoral blood vessel.
- A bandage (*dressing*) will be applied.

What should I expect after my procedure?

- Minor discomfort may be present that should be controllable by over-the-counter medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc.) or whatever you normally take for pain at home. No pain medication prescriptions will be provided on discharge. Any significant pain post-procedure would warrant a trip to the ER or a call to the ordering physician.
- You will be required to lay flat for a certain amount of time after your procedure. The amount of time is reliant on the type of closure device used during your procedure and will be relayed to you after your procedure is complete.
- You can expect to spend the night in the hospital the night after your procedure.



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