

Ovarian Vein Venography and Embolization

Is a procedure to investigate Chronic Pelvic Congestion or Ovarian Vein Congestion Syndrome. A catheter is inserted into a blood vessel in your groin. A catheter is used to inject contrast media into the veins draining the ovaries.

If the veins are enlarged and tortuous they may be embolized (blocked), by injecting small metallic coils into the veins through the catheter in the ovarian vein.

You must stay in Saskatoon the evening following your procedure, within a 15-minute drive of hospital Emergency Department. Please be aware that City Hospital Emergency Department closes at 8:30 pm.

The risks of ovarian vein venography and embolization include the following:

1. Bleeding at the catheter insertion site in the groin - This is rare due to the slow flow and low blood pressure in the veins in this region. We will not discharge you from the procedure room unless we are confident that there is no evidence of active bleeding.
2. Discomfort - The implantation of the embolization coils may cause minor flank and back discomfort that is easily managed with simple pain relievers taken by mouth. If your discomfort is difficult to tolerate the nurses in the Day Surgery area will contact us to prescribe stronger pain relief medications.
3. Displacement of the embolization coils - Rarely one of the metallic coils implanted in the ovarian vein breaks free and enters the central veins of the body. The blood flow in these veins will result in this coil entering the veins of the lungs and becoming lodged in this area. This is called a pulmonary embolism.