



InfoNEURO

# Endovascular treatment of cerebral aneurysm with platinum coils (GDC)

## Neuroradiology Department

## Montreal Neurological Hospital

3801 University  
(corner of Pine Avenue)  
5th floor, Montreal (Quebec)  
H3A 2B4

Tel. 398-1910

Your doctor has requested that you have an endovascular treatment

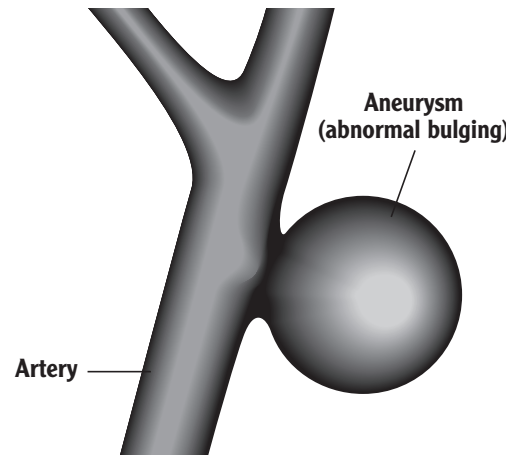
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment date \_\_\_\_\_

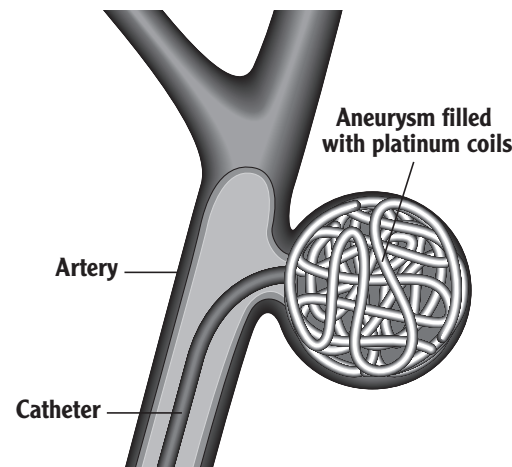
Appointment time \_\_\_\_\_

## You have been diagnosed with a cerebral aneurysm.

An aneurysm is an abnormal bulging along the wall of an artery which could bleed. The aneurysm results from the combination of a weakening of the arterial wall and a rise of the blood pressure.



Your doctor has recommended an endovascular treatment. This consists of filling the aneurysm with platinum coils to achieve complete occlusion (to block the flow of blood into the bulge).



## Risks

The risks of this procedure will be explained to you beforehand by a neuro-radiologist.

## Preparation

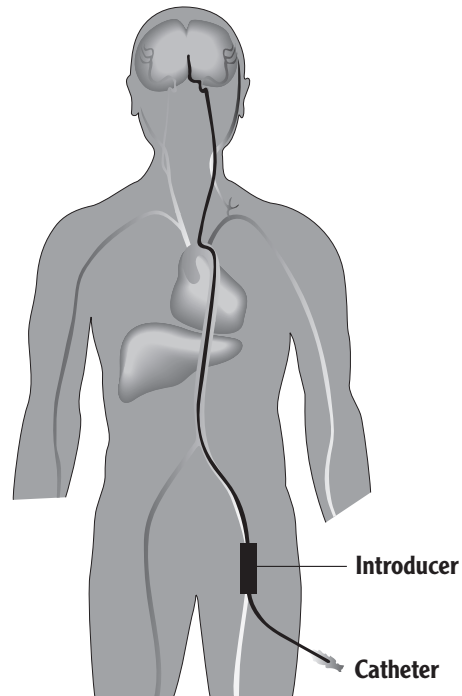
- Do not eat or drink after midnight the night before the procedure.
- You will be admitted to the hospital the night before your procedure or the same day.
- Family members may accompany you to the radiology department.
- Upon your arrival a radiology nurse will take care of you.
- The neuro-radiologist and the neuro-anaesthetist will explain the procedure and obtain your consent.
- An intravenous will be inserted in your arm. Then you will be hooked up to cardiac and blood pressure monitors. Next, the neuro-anaesthetist will start the sedation.
- A urinary catheter will be inserted after you are under general anesthesia.



Centre universitaire de santé McGill  
McGill University Health Centre

## Procedure

- You will be asleep during the procedure (about 3 hours or more).
- We will insert an introducer (like a small tube) into the blood vessel of your groin. Through this introducer, a long catheter will be inserted to reach the inside of the aneurysm in order to fill it with platinum coils. The intro-



ducer will still be there when you wake up from the general anaesthesia. You should feel a little discomfort at the groin site but not more.

- The introducer will be removed the day after the procedure by the neuro-radiologist.

## After the procedure

- You will remain in the recovery room for about 24 hours with the introducer in your groin.
- You must not bend your leg, but the head of your bed can be raised 30 to 40 degrees.
- When the introducer is removed from your groin, a pressure dressing is applied for about 12 hours. At this time, you can be transferred to your room.
- The intravenous can be taken out 2 hours later.
- The nurse will check you frequently and also verify the pressure dressing for bleeding or swelling. The pulse in your foot will be checked to ensure your circulation is good.
- You must remain in bed for at least 24 hours after the introducer has been removed.
- However, you can get up to the bathroom 4 hours after.
- You can usually go home the next day (48 hours after the procedure).

## Discharge instructions

- During the first week, do not lift heavy objects. The femoral artery needs time to heal well.
- You can walk short distances every day.
- Increase your activity every day and listen to your body for signs of fatigue.
- Your physician will tell you when you may return to work and do your regular activities. (Usually 2 weeks after the procedure.)
- For the next 6 months, do not take any medication containing aspirin.
- We recommend that you inform health professionals that you have a cerebral aneurysm that was treated with platinum coils.
- Platinum coils are MRI compatible so it is safe for you to have a magnetic resonance imaging test, in case you need one.

**For more information call the radiology nurse at (514) 398-1910.**

**Neuroradiology Department  
Montreal Neurological Hospital**

Written by Josée Beloin, RN, BSN  
Reviewed by Dr Tampieri, MD

InfoNEURO patient guides are produced by the Neuro-Patient Resource Centre and Montreal Neurological Hospital staff. This information is for educational purposes only, and is not intended to replace the advice of a professional healthcare practitioner, or to substitute for medical care.

This page can be reprinted from the Neuro-Patient Resource Centre web site at: <http://www.mcgill.ca/mni/neuropatient/index.html>

February 2002