

Catheter Embolization

Embolization is a procedure to block a blood vessel. It is done to stop severe bleeding. Or it is done to stop blood flow to a part of the body. To do this, a **catheter** (thin, flexible tube) is put into a blood vessel through a small incision. It is often done by a doctor called an **interventional radiologist**. This procedure may be done alone, or with surgery or other treatment.

Why Catheter Embolization Is Done

The procedure may be done to:

- Control bleeding in an emergency.
- Block blood flow to a cancerous tumor.
- Block blood flow to a uterine fibroid.
- Treat arteriovenous malformations (AVMs) in the brain and body.

During the Procedure

- A small incision is made over the insertion site. This is usually done in the groin. A catheter is put into the blood vessel. It is then moved to the area to be treated.
- Contrast medium is injected through the catheter. This makes the artery and catheter stand out on x-ray pictures. The movement of the catheter is then watched on a video screen.
- A material or medication is sent through the catheter. It goes to the treatment site.
- The procedure is repeated in each blood vessel that needs to be blocked.
- The catheter is then removed