

Abdomen MR Angiography

Appointment Information

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

About

MR angiography is a special type of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) used by radiologists to examine blood vessels in key areas of the body, including the abdomen.

During the scan, you will be positioned on the moveable examination table. Devices that contain coils capable of sending and receiving radio waves may be placed around or adjacent to the area of the body being studied.

If a contrast material will be used in the MR exam, a nurse or technologist will insert an intravenous (IV) catheter, also known as an IV line, into a vein in your hand or arm. A saline solution may be used. The solution will drip through the IV to prevent blockage of the IV catheter until the contrast material is injected.

You will be moved into the magnet of the MR unit and the radiologist and technologist will leave the room while the MRI examination is performed.

If a contrast material is used during the examination, it will be injected into the intravenous line (IV) after an initial series of scans. Additional series of images will be taken during or following the injection.

When the examination is completed, you may be asked to wait until the technologist or radiologist checks the images in case additional images are needed. Your intravenous line will be removed.

MR exams generally include multiple runs, some of which may last several minutes. The entire examination is usually completed in less than 60 minutes once imaging has started.

Preparations

During the MR angiogram of your abdomen, you will be asked to wear a gown.

MR angiogram may require you to receive an injection of contrast into the vein of your arm. Your radiologist or technologist may ask if you have asthma or if you have allergies such as allergy to iodine or x-ray contrast material, to drugs, to food, or to the environment. However, the contrast material used for an MR exam, called gadolinium, does not contain iodine and is less likely to cause an allergic reaction than iodine containing contrast used for a CT scan.

Your radiologist should also know if you have any serious health problems and what surgeries you have undergone. Some conditions, such as severe kidney or liver disease may prevent you from receiving contrast material during an MR exam.

Women should always inform their radiologist or technologist if there is any possibility that they are pregnant. MR has been used for scanning patients since the 1980s with no reports of any ill effects on pregnant women or their babies. However, because the baby will be in a strong magnetic field, pregnant women should not have this exam unless the potential benefit from the MR exam is assumed to outweigh the potential risks. Pregnant women should not receive injections of contrast material.

If you are breastfeeding at the time of the exam, you should ask your doctor how to proceed.