

Brain MR Angiography

Appointment Information

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

About

MR angiography is a medical test that helps radiologists diagnose medical conditions related to blood vessels in the brain.

In magnetic resonance angiography (MRA), a powerful magnetic field, radio waves and a computer produce the detailed images. MR angiography does not use ionizing radiation (x-rays).

MR angiography may be performed without or with contrast material. If needed, the contrast material is usually administered through a small catheter placed in a vein in your arm.

Physicians use the MR angiography procedure to:

- Identify abnormalities, such as aneurysms.
- Identify a small aneurysm or arteriovenous malformation (abnormal communications between blood vessels) inside the brain.

An MRA is usually done on an outpatient basis. During the procedure, 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.

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

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.

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

Preparations

To prepare for the brain MR angiography exam, you will be asked to wear a gown during the exam.

Guidelines about eating and drinking before a magnetic resonance angiogram (MRA) exam vary. Unless you are told otherwise, you may follow your regular daily routine and take medications as usual.

Women should always inform their physician or technologist if there is any possibility that they are pregnant. If you are breastfeeding at the time of the exam, you should ask your doctor how to proceed.