

Imaging Facts Sheet for Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA)

What to expect during your MRI exam

When you arrive at the MRI Department you will be asked MRI safety questions to make sure you are safe to enter the MRI scan room.

STANDARD SAFETY QUESTIONS:

Dialysis or Renal Failure	Aneurysm Clip in brain
Heart Valve Replacement	History of Metal in Eyes, skin or body
IVC Filter (ex. Greenfield Filter)	Embolization Coil
Cochlear Implant or hearing aid	Diabetic
Transdermal Medication Patch	Claustrophobia/anxiety
Nerve Stimulation Device {TENS}	Implants or devices in the body
Pregnancy or Breast Feeding	Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD)
Cardiac Pacemaker or Wires	Breast Tissue Expanders

PREPARING FOR THE SCAN:

Once it is determined that you are safe to enter the MRI scan room you will be asked to dress in hospital pajamas. You may be asked MRI safety questions several times by different staff members, please do not be concerned we are just making sure that you are safe. An MRI technologist will greet you and will bring you to the scanning room area. An IV line will be placed in order to administer contrast for the scan. Contrast is necessary to see the blood vessels that are not seen without the contrast. During the contrast injection you may feel a cold sensation or sometimes taste or detect a subtle odor, this is normal and goes away quickly.

DURING THE SCAN:

For the scan itself you will be placed on the MRI equipment and table, lying on your back and enter the scanner feet first or if you are having an MRA for your neck you will enter headfirst. Part of the MRI equipment will be placed on or near the area being examined. A belt will be placed around your waist and this is for determining if you are holding your breath for the pictures. You will be covered with a sheet or blanket to keep your privacy and keep you comfortable. During the time of the scan we ask that you refrain from moving so that all the images can be precisely acquired, some pictures we may not be able to repeat. You will be asked to hold your breath and the contrast will be injected to image the blood vessels. You will also be offered ear protection, because the scan does make loud sounds. For many exams we may offer you earphones so you may listen to music. You will also be given a call bell in case you need to alert the technologist.

MRA's may be performed for many different areas within the body to see the blood vessels. The following are the most frequent areas that we image for MRA:

Brain or Circle of Willis (COW)	Carotid or Neck
Chest	Arms/Legs
Abdomen	Pelvis

Once the scan is over the technologist will remove the IV line and bring you to the dressing room where you may change into your own clothing.

EXAM TIME: Approximately 1 to 1 ½ hours

ALLERGIES: Please alert the technologist if you have allergies

KIDNEY FUNCTION: Contrast is okay to inject when you have normal kidney function

RESULTS:

Your physician will receive the report in the next 1-2 days following the date of the scan. If you need films or CD please let technologist before the exam. If you have any questions about your scheduled exam, please call (860) 545-5300.

Thank you for choosing Hartford Hospital Imaging Center and giving us the opportunity to serve you.