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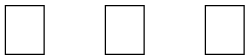
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Reference



What Is MRA?



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An MRA is a test that lets your doctor see inside your **blood** vessels -- your **arteries** and veins. MRA stands for Magnetic Resonance Angiogram or MR Angiography.

Your doctor may ask you to get one in order to look for and treat problems with your **blood** vessels.

The test can check the blood vessels in many different parts of your body:

- **Brain** or neck
- **Heart** or chest

- [Abdomen](#) or belly, including organs, like your [liver](#) or [kidneys](#)
- Pelvis or lower belly
- Arms and legs

Your doctor may order this exam for different reasons that include:

- Check for aneurysms or weakened blood vessels
- Find plaque that blocks or narrows blood vessels
- Look for problems with the structure of your blood vessels
- Help to [prepare for surgery](#), or check results after surgery
- Locate injured blood vessels after an accident
- Help with [cancer treatment](#)
- Diagnose [blood clots](#)

Preparation

You will get instructions, usually from the place where you'll have your MRA. Make sure you understand the directions and follow them closely. They may include information about:

- Whether you can eat or drink before the test
- If it's OK to take your usual medicines
- What you may wear and what you will need to take off

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The MRA equipment includes a magnetic field. So you'll need to take off anything metal, such as:

- Jewelry and watches

- Body piercings
- [Eye glasses](#) and [hearing aids](#)
- Clothing with metal snaps or zippers

What to Tell Your Doctor

Make sure you tell your doctor or the staff at the MRA facility if you:

- Have medical problems, like [kidney disease](#)
- Are allergic to anything
- Are [pregnant](#) or [breastfeeding](#)
- Have any medical devices or implants, like:
 - [Heart](#) ☒ valves
 - Drug ports
 - Artificial limbs or joint replacements
 - Metal pins, screws, plates, staples, or [stents](#) ☒

Also let them know if you have other metal:

- Left from an accident or injury
- In some tattoo dye
- From dental work

MRA is safe for people with most types of metal implants, except:

- Cardiac defibrillators
- [Pacemakers](#)
- Cochlear or [ear](#) implants
- Some clips for brain aneurysm repair

- Some coils for blood vessel repair

Tell your doctor, too, if you're afraid of closed or small spaces. They may give you medicine before the test to help you relax. If so, you'll need someone to drive you home after the exam.

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