

BRAIN ANEURYSM DIAGNOSIS

TYPES OF DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

Computerized tomography (CT)

This is usually the first test done to determine if there is bleeding in the brain and produces two-dimensional images that are “slices” of the brain. You may also get an injection of a dye (CT angiography) to make it easier to observe blood flow and may indicate the site of a ruptured aneurysm.

Cerebrospinal fluid test

If you’ve had a subarachnoid hemorrhage, there are likely red blood cells in the fluid surrounding your brain and spine (cerebrospinal fluid). This test is ordered when there are symptoms of a ruptured aneurysm and a CT scan hasn’t shown bleeding.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

An MRI uses a magnetic field and radio waves to create two or three-dimensional images of the brain. The use of a dye (MRI angiography) enhances images of blood vessels and the site of a ruptured aneurysm.

Cerebral angiogram or cerebral arteriogram

A thin, flexible tube (catheter) is inserted into a large artery, usually your groin, and threaded past your heart to the arteries in your brain. A special dye is injected, producing images that reveal the conditions of the arteries and site of a ruptured aneurysm.

Magnetic resonance angiogram (MRA)

An MRA finds problems that may be causing reduced blood flow in the blood vessels by using a magnetic field and pulses of radio wave energy to reveal images of these vessels and walls.



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