

# CTA (Computed Tomography Angiography)

## Why is it done?

A **computed tomography angiogram (CTA)** is a test that uses X-rays to provide detailed pictures of the blood vessels that go to the heart, lung, brain, kidneys, head, neck, legs, and arms. This test can show narrowed or blocked areas of a blood vessel. An injection of a special dye will be given to produce the pictures of blood vessels in your body. The dye is injected through an intravenous (IV) line started in your arm.

## How to prepare:

*Please tell the technologist if you have an insulin pump.*

- To prepare for the **CTA** study, you should not eat for 4 hours prior to your scheduled time.
- You may be required to have recent bloodwork to evaluate your kidney function prior to the injection of IV dye

## What to expect during the test:

The technologist will insert an IV into your arm. The dye flows through this IV. During the injection, you may experience a warm sensation that only lasts a few minutes.



**What to expect after the test:**

- You can resume your usual activities and normal diet immediately.
- Drink plenty of water to help flush the dye from your system.
- The results of your exam should be available to your physician within 36 hours after the test.
- Your physician will discuss the test results with you.