

## IV-Digital Subtraction Angiography (DSA)

An IV digital subtraction angiography (DSA) is a procedure that shows your blood vessels by using contrast dye in a vein. It takes less time and has less risk than an angiogram. This test can show artery narrow spots, vessel changes, or brain aneurysms.

### Before the Procedure

A nurse will call you once the procedure is scheduled. They will ask you to review your medicines and any allergies you have. You may need lab work before the test.

You will get a second call 2–3 days before the exam. They will let you know what time to arrive and tell you what medicines to stop before surgery.

### Diet

You may eat and drink as normal.

### During the Procedure

1. You will change into a gown, and we will place an IV in your arm.
2. A doctor will go over details of the exam and answer any questions.
3. We will take you to the angiogram suite.
4. You will lie flat on a table that moves. We will ask you to be completely still.
5. We inject contrast dye through the IV in your arm.
6. We use X-ray to take images before and after the dye goes in. A computer removes the bone images so we can see only the dye in your vessels.

### After the Procedure

You will go back to the prep and recovery area. A nurse will remove your IV and help you change your clothes. You can go home right away. You should see the doctor who ordered your test to review your results.

### Results

Schedule a follow-up visit with the doctor who ordered your exam to review your results.

### Who to Call

If you have questions, please contact your provider through MyChart or call your provider listed in your After Visit Summary or After Hospital Care Plan. For a list of UW Health Clinics, visit [www.uwhealth.org/](http://www.uwhealth.org/).

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 3/2026 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing HF#8486

