



Tests You May Need After a Stroke

To create the best treatment plan, your doctor will want to find out the type of stroke you've had, its cause, and the part of the brain that has been affected. Below is a list of tests your doctor may order for you.

Angiogram	An x-ray test that uses a special dye and camera to take pictures of the blood flow in an artery or a vein.
Computed Tomography (CT) Scan, Computerized Axial Tomography or CAT scan	A series of x-rays taken from different angles to make detailed pictures of bones, blood vessels, and soft tissue inside of the body.
Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA) or CT angiography	A technique used to see the arteries, veins and blood flow.
Doppler Ultrasound	A test that uses sound waves to see how blood flows through a blood vessel.
Electroencephalogram (EEG)	A test that measures and records the electrical activity of the brain by attaching special sensors (electrodes) to the head that are hooked by wires to a computer. It helps determine if a patient is at risk for a seizure.
Lumbar Puncture	A procedure that uses a needle to take fluid from the spine in the lower back for diagnostic purposes.
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)	A test that uses a magnetic field and pulses of radio wave energy to make pictures of organs and structures inside the body. The area of the body being studied is placed inside a special machine that contains a strong magnet.

Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA)	A type of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan that uses a magnetic field and pulses of radio wave energy to provide pictures of blood vessels inside the body. Contrast material is often used during MRA to make blood vessels show up more clearly.
Ultrasound	A test that uses sound waves to make pictures of the inside of the body.
Transcranial Doppler (TCD)	A test that uses ultrasound to measure the speed of blood flow through the brain's blood vessels. This test is often done to look for vasospasm. Vasospasm is a narrowing of the blood vessels.
Transesophageal Echocardiography (TEE)	A test that produces pictures of your heart and arteries through high-frequency sound waves (ultrasound) to make detailed pictures. The part that produces the sound waves is attached to a thin tube that passes through your mouth, down your throat and into your esophagus.
Transthoracic Echocardiogram (TTE)	The most common type of echocardiogram, which is a still or moving image of the internal parts of the heart using ultrasound. The probe is placed on the outside of the chest or abdomen to get various views of the heart.

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