Minimally-invasive procedures
Depending on the results of your diagnostic imaging exams, an interventional radiology procedure may be recommended. These minimally-invasive procedures will be performed by one of our interventional radiologists at the hospital.

Angiography
Angiography allows for a detailed, clear and accurate picture of the blood vessels and is used in patients who may undergo angioplasty or stenting. After inserting a catheter through an artery leading to the body area of interest, contrast material is injected to highlight the vessels, which are seen using x-ray.

Angioplasty
A catheter with a tiny balloon at the tip is inserted into a blood vessel. The balloon is inflated, deflated and removed. Expanding the balloon stretches the arterial wall and opens the fatty plaques (atherosclerosis), helping to restore blood flow.

Stenting
A stent is a small wire mesh tube that is placed across vessel narrowings using a balloon. With the stent in place and the balloon removed, blood flow is restored to the narrowed vessel.

Comprehensive follow-up
Follow-up visits facilitated by our nurse ensure that your treatment goal was met and can help prevent recurrent problems. We monitor your outcomes through clinic visits and follow-up diagnostic imaging exams as indicated.

Angiography consultation is available at our Coon Rapids office:
763.792.1981
8990 Springbrook Drive, Suite 140 | Coon Rapids, MN 55433

For detailed directions, visit our website at www.suburbanimaging.com
What is vascular disease?
Vascular disease, or atherosclerosis, is a condition where the arteries that carry blood become narrowed or clogged, interfering with normal blood flow. Cholesterol and scar tissue build up, forming a substance called “plaque” that narrows or blocks the blood vessels. Atherosclerosis involves blood vessels throughout the body, including those of the legs, kidneys, heart, neck and brain.

Legs
Atherosclerosis of the legs is also called peripheral arterial disease (PAD). Symptoms may consist of pain, weakness or aching in the legs, feet or toes while walking – with the pain decreasing or going away after resting for a few minutes.

Kidneys
Symptoms of atherosclerosis of the kidneys may include high blood pressure or kidney failure.

Neck and brain
Symptoms of atherosclerosis of the neck and brain may include change in vision, imbalance or stroke.

Who is at risk for vascular disease
As many as 10 million men and women in the United States may have atherosclerosis. It is estimated that four million of those suffer from leg pain symptoms. If you are over the age of 50, you may be at risk if you have any of the following factors: smoking; diabetes; overweight; inactive lifestyle; high blood pressure or high cholesterol; family history of heart or vascular disease.

Treatment of vascular disease
Treatment of vascular disease depends on a number of factors, including your overall health and the severity of the disease. In some cases, lifestyle changes are enough to halt the progression of vascular disease. Your healthcare provider may prescribe medicine when lifestyle changes are not enough.

When vascular disease requires intervention beyond medication, there are a number of ways that blocked blood vessels can be opened to restore normal blood flow. In many cases, these procedures can be performed without surgery by using modern interventional radiology techniques.

Outpatient diagnostic imaging exams
Your evaluation may require the following diagnostic imaging exams at Suburban Imaging. These exams evaluate blood flow and obtain enhanced images to determine the condition of the arteries and veins in the brain, carotid arteries, aorta, renal arteries and extremities.

Vascular Ultrasound (US)
Ultrasound uses sound waves to view blood flow in the blood vessels. An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) is a quick test to measure blood flow.

Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA)
MRA is a specialized type of MRI study, which can detect, diagnose and aid in the treatment of a variety of vascular disorders. MRA may require the use of IV contrast material. MRA uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves to capture enhanced images.

Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA)
CTA is a specialized CT technique that requires the use of IV contrast material to obtain images. CTA is used when a metal stent has already been placed in the area to be studied, or if the patient has an implanted metal device, such as a pacemaker.

If you have questions about vascular disease, please call our nurse at 763.792.1980.