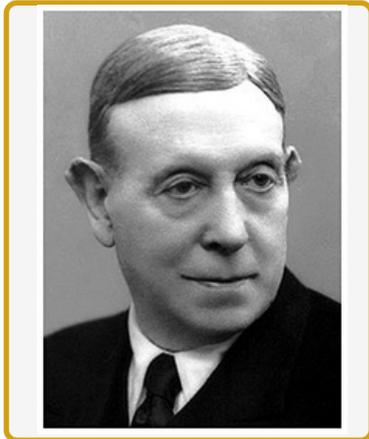


EGAS MONIZ

Father of Cerebral Angiography · Nobel Laureate · Visionary Neurologist



António Egas Moniz (1874 – 1955)

Full Name: António Caetano de Abreu Freire Egas Moniz

Born: 29 November 1874, Avança, Portugal

Died: 13 December 1955, Lisbon, Portugal

Nationality: Portuguese

Disciplines: Neurology, Neuroradiology, Psychiatry, Politics

Institution: University of Lisbon (1911 – 1944)

Nobel Prize: Physiology or Medicine, 1949

Historic Milestone: First cerebral angiogram performed on a living human patient, 1927 — a century of brain vascular imaging begins.

THE MAN BEHIND THE MILESTONE

Egas Moniz was one of the most intellectually restless figures in 20th-century medicine. Educated at the University of Coimbra and trained in neurology and psychiatry in Paris under luminaries including Babinski, Dejerine, and Pierre Marie, Moniz returned to Portugal to chair the new specialty of Neurology at the University of Lisbon in 1911. But it was only after his retirement from active politics in 1926, at the age of 51, that he truly channelled his energies into the neurosciences — producing in the next decade work that would permanently alter the landscape of brain diagnostics and neurosurgery.

Despite suffering from severe deforming gouty arthritis that rendered his hands incapable of performing the delicate injections himself, Moniz collaborated with his brilliant young neurosurgical colleague Dr. Almeida Lima to execute the first cerebral angiogram in a living human patient in July 1927. The image, obtained by injecting a radiopaque contrast agent directly into the carotid artery, revealed the cerebral vasculature with unprecedented clarity — making visible what had previously been entirely hidden.

"He injected arteries and looked for a change in the normal anatomy of the cerebral vasculature that could be indicative of a mass lesion — and in doing so, opened a window into the living brain."

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF CEREBRAL ANGIOGRAPHY

ACHIEVEMENTS & LEGACY

YEAR	MILESTONE
1874	Born in Avança, northern Portugal into an aristocratic family.
1891–99	University of Coimbra — excelled academically; elected president of the prestigious Tuna Academica student organisation.
1901	Published <i>A Vida Sexual</i> — a bold, controversial treatise on sexology that drew immediate national attention.
1911	Appointed founding Professor of Neurology, University of Lisbon — a post he held for 33 years.
1926	Retired from politics; concentrated exclusively on neurological research.
1927	■ Performed the first successful cerebral angiogram in a living patient. Presented findings at the Société de Neurologie, Paris (July 7, 1927). Published landmark paper: 'L'encéphalographie artérielle, son importance dans la localisation des tumeurs cérébrales.'
1927–34	Published 112 articles and 2 books on cerebral angiography; lectured internationally including in Brazil. Named carotid siphon and Sylvian fissure arteries.
1928–37	Nominated three times for the Nobel Prize for cerebral angiography — a rare honour that testified to the magnitude of the discovery.
1931	Introduced Thorotrast as a contrast agent; pioneered vertebro-basilar arteriography.
1935	Developed prefrontal leucotomy (later modified by Freeman & Watts as lobotomy) for refractory psychiatric disorders.
1949	Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine — the first Portuguese national to receive the honour — shared with Walter Rudolf Hess.
1955	Passed away in Lisbon, aged 81, having transformed neurological diagnostics forever.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DID CEREBRAL ANGIOGRAPHY MAKE?

Brain Tumour Localisation	Stroke Diagnosis & Carotid Disease
For the first time surgeons could precisely locate intracranial tumours before craniotomy, dramatically reducing operative mortality.	Detection of internal carotid artery occlusion — until then routinely missed — became possible, laying the groundwork for stroke neurology.
Endovascular Neurology	Foundation of Neuroradiology
Every modern thrombectomy, aneurysm coiling, and AVM embolisation traces its lineage directly to Moniz's 1927 carotid injection.	Cerebral angiography remained the sole brain vascular imaging tool until CT arrived in 1975 — a 48-year reign of clinical dominance.

RELEVANCE TO INTERVENTIONAL STROKE NEUROLOGY TODAY

The interventional neurology of 2027 —mechanical thrombectomy for large vessel occlusion, flow-diverter stenting for unruptured aneurysms, and RAPID-AI-guided perfusion imaging — is the direct descendant of Moniz's 1927 carotid puncture. Digital subtraction angiography (DSA), the gold-standard tool in every Comprehensive Stroke Centre and Cath Lab today, is a technological refinement of the identical principle: inject contrast, visualise vessels,

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act. At Stroke Foundation Prabaho, as we champion RAPID-AI integration, endovascular access, and rural telestroke networks across India, we stand on the shoulders of Egas Moniz — a physician who dared to see the brain's blood supply when no one else had.

CENTENARY TRIBUTE | 1927 – 2027

"Cerebral angiography remains a seminal diagnostic tool. Its sensitivity continues to be enhanced by each generation of technological advancement. One hundred years on, we honour Egas Moniz — neurologist, statesman, and pioneer — whose singular act of injecting contrast into a carotid artery changed neurology forever."