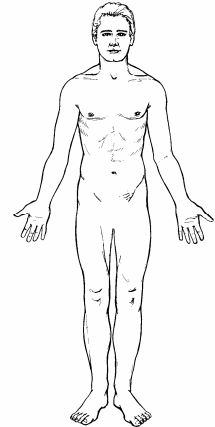


MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)

Patient Education

What is the purpose of this exam?

MRI uses radio waves and a strong magnetic field rather than x-rays to provide remarkably clear and detailed pictures of internal organs and tissues. Your physician may order an MRI to look for vascular disease, joint and skeletal disorders, suspected tumors, or multiple sclerosis. MRI can detect tiny areas of tissue abnormality in patients with disease of the eyes or the inner ear.



How should I prepare for this exam?

Because of the strong magnetic field used for MRI, you will be asked by the technologist to provide a full history of the possibility of any metal object in your body. Some of the objects you will be asked about is a pacemaker, prosthetic hip heart valve, bullet fragments, any metal fragments from a work environment, or surgical staples. You will be asked to remove any object that may affect the MRI image, such as hairpins, jewelry, coins, hearing aids, or removable dental work. It is best to wear clothing with no metal snaps, zippers, or hooks. **This test does not require you to go without food or drink.**

Will this test affect me?

MRI is a painless exam. You will be asked to be very still during the exam as motion will degrade the image that is recorded. Some patients will experience some claustrophobia because of the "closed in" design of some of the equipment. The technologist will monitor you via intercom during the entire procedure to assure your comfort.

How is the test performed?

There are two types of MRI equipment, an open and a closed magnet. The closed magnet will be a cylindrical shaped device that is open on both ends. The open magnet allows the patient to see out on both sides of the equipment. You may hear a "tapping" sound during certain phases of the imaging. Most exams take from 15 to 45 minutes, depending on how many MRI sequences are needed. Those sequences are then computer processed to form an image. Some procedures require a contrast agent to be injected and an IV will be placed into your arm for a short period of time. If you have strong feelings of claustrophobia, your doctor may order medication to be taken before you have the exam. This should be discussed with your physician. The entire procedure will last about one hour.

How will I receive results from the test?

Results will be sent to your physician who will discuss the results with you.

CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS