

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Because of the strong magnetic field, MRI scans may not be recommended for patients with:

- a pacemaker
- blood vessel clips
- implanted pumps
- metal in the eyes or sockets
- hearing implants
- artificial limbs
- other implanted metal devices

All persons must remove metal objects such as watches and jewelry before entering the MRI scan room.

As a precaution, pregnant women are not given MRI scans unless there is no alternative imaging option.

Please advise your doctor and the technologist performing the procedure of the following:

- If there is any possibility that you could be pregnant
- If you have any food allergies
- If you have had allergic reactions to anesthetic or x-ray contrast dyes
- If you have a history of asthma, heart, or kidney problems or sickle cell anemia
- Any medications you are taking



WHO REPORTS THE TEST?

Results are reported by radiologists - doctors who are specialized in reading x-ray images. Your doctor should receive a signed report within 10 business days. You should follow-up with your doctor to discuss the results of your test.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on specific MRI examinations, ask the technologist who performs your exam or visit:

www.radiologyinfo.org

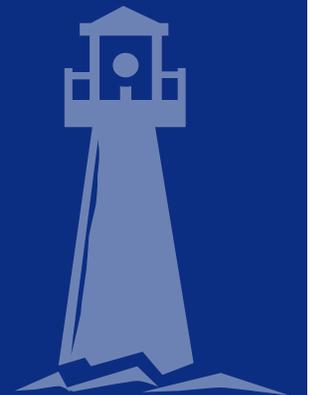
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MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)

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MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)

MRI is performed by a technologist who is specially trained in Magnetic Resonance Imaging. MRI provides detailed pictures of the body without the use of x-rays. It uses magnets, radio waves and a computer to produce images of the body.

MRI scans provide greater detail of body tissues and organs than regular x-rays, which show bones and other hard substances.

MRI scanners can more accurately detect conditions of the brain, spinal cord, abdomen, chest, bones and joints. It is commonly used for:

- Sports-related injuries of the soft tissue and joints
- Diagnosing heart conditions
- Examining the chest and abdomen
- Examining the brain and spinal cord

PREPARATION

Preparation varies by procedure.

Instructions for preparation are specific to the examination you are booked for and will be included in the letter you receive to advise you of your appointment date and time. The doctor who ordered your examination may also give you information about the required preparation. Prior to the examination, patients are asked to remove jewelry and metal objects and to wear a gown. You will be asked not to wear any

makeup or hair products on the day of the exam.



PROCEDURE

The MRI machine is a large, round magnetic tube. The patient lies on the table with either feet or head first, depending on the area of the body to be scanned. Dye may be injected to show blood vessels and organs more clearly. In some cases, especially with patients who are claustrophobic, a mild sedative may also be used.

The head, arms or legs may be secured with straps to prevent movement. The table then slides into the magnetic chamber.

Inside the chamber patients feel air moving around and hear thumping sounds. The thumping indicates when the MRI scans are being taken.

Patients should not feel any discomfort from the magnet or radio waves nor should

they have any after effects from the examination. During the procedure, **it is important for you to remain still** to avoid blurring of the images. MRI scans take about 30 minutes for most procedures; however more complex procedures could take up to 2 hours.

BENEFITS & RISKS

BENEFITS

- MRI produces very detailed pictures of soft tissues, allowing for the accurate diagnosis of many conditions such as tumors and other abnormalities that are close to the bone, which may not be visible with other imaging methods.
- MRI is the only imaging tool that can diagnose Multiple Sclerosis. MRI technology also allows many patients with skeletal conditions to avoid lengthy, invasive and very painful surgical procedures.

RISKS

- There are no known risks to the MRI scan itself; however any undetected metallic implants may be affected by the magnetic field.
- Contrast (dye) materials used in the procedure have little likelihood of allergic reactions.