

MRI Exam Overview

What Is It and How to Prepare

What is a MRI?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a method of obtaining detailed pictures of internal body structures without the use of radiation or radioactive substances of any kind. This is accomplished by placing the patient in a magnetic field while radio waves are turned on and off. This causes the body to emit its own weak radio signals which vary according to tissue characteristics. These signals are then picked up by a sensitive antenna and fed to a computer which produces detailed images of the body for interpretation by trained radiologists.

During the examination you will not feel anything unusual. You will, however, hear a repeated drum-like knocking sound as the scans are recorded.

You can help to produce high quality images by lying still during the examination while breathing normally. Several series will be performed. The average series takes 5 to 10 minutes- the complete scan about 30 to 45 minutes- during which time several dozen images will be produced.

Exam Preparation

How to prepare for your MRI exam

Please wear loose, comfortable clothing without metal snaps or zippers. There are no restrictions on eating or drinking before your MRI exam.

To ensure proper arrangements are made to accommodate your needs, please inform your referring physician if you are claustrophobic or unable to lie still and flat for extended amounts of time (usually 30 to 45 minutes)

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your scheduled time in order to complete the registration process- if pre-registered, you still must stop by Registration to sign paperwork.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

We will ask that you remove all metallic objects before entering the MR environment or MR system room including hearing aids, beeper, cell phone, keys, eyeglasses, hair pins, barrettes, jewelry (including body piercing jewelry), watch, safety pins, wallet with bank cards, coins. Loose metallic objects are especially prohibited in the MR system room and MR environment.

Please consult the MRI Technologist if you have any questions or concerns **BEFORE** you enter the MR system room.

