

MRI

Magnetic Resonance Imaging is a safe and painless test that produces very clear cross-sectional or three-dimensional images of the body's tissues, even through bone and other obstructions. Because of its safety and clarity, the MRI is a very valuable tool that can aid in the diagnosis of a wide range of conditions. The differences between C.T. and MRI are that C.T. can only scan in axial images, it gives off radiation, it does not take as long, and it is not as noisy. There are a few things patients need to do to prepare for the MRI exam.

If there is any possibility of pregnancy, this must be discussed with your physician BEFORE any tests can be done.

- 1.) Fill out a questionnaire completely prior to exam. This is extremely important for your safety and health. Certain objects and implants are not allowed into the area of the MRI, due to the strength of the magnet. This is for your safety!
- 2.) Remove all metal objects from your body. Do NOT wear jewelry.
- 3.) Wear comfortable clothing. Ex: work-out/gym clothes
- 4.) If the patient is in a lot of pain prior to exam and is on pain pills, please take the pills as close to your scheduled exam time as possible.
- 5.) If the patient is claustrophobic, please have your physician's office or the MRI department instruct the patient on receiving a sedative (valium) prior to exam date. Also, after taking the sedative, the patient will need a driver, and the patient might be limited on normal daily activities.
- 6.) Please empty your bladder prior to exam. Average exam time is 45 minutes long
- 7.) Please do NOT bring young children to exam.

Even though the MRI is a painless exam, it is required that you can lie on your back for approximately 45-60 minutes for most exams.

If you are going to have a MRI done of your wrist or elbow, prepare to lie on your stomach.

If you are having a MRI done of your abdomen prepare to lie on your back, and it is required that you are able to hold your breath for 20 seconds (average) at certain times of the exam.

If you are having a Magnetic Resonance Angiography done of your lower extremities, prepare for 60 minutes, lying flat on your back, and able to hold your breath for 20 seconds at certain times during the test. An I.V. will be started, and a contrast will be administered through the I.V. site. The contrast is NOT Iodine!

After the MRI is done, patients are free to go about their daily activities if NO sedative has been administered. The MRI is a very helpful tool for the physicians. Depending on what the MRI reveals, additional tests or treatment may be necessary.

* Please give the facility 24 hours notice for film or a disc checkout.*