

Why MRI?

MRI is the most advanced imaging technology available. It allows your doctor to see inside the body without x-rays or surgery. MRI uses harmless magnetic and radio-frequency waves to examine muscles, fat and internal organs. MRI produces clear and extremely detailed pictures, or images, that allow your doctor to make a more accurate diagnosis.

How Should I Prepare?

There is no special diet or preparation requirements for this test.

How Is An MRI Done?

MRI is a very simple and comfortable exam. A technician will assist you onto an examination table. Once you are lying comfortably on the examination table, the table will move smoothly into position, toward the center of the MRI's donut shaped magnet. The technician will then instruct you to lie still so that the MRI can take clear, precise pictures. When the MRI begins taking pictures, you will hear some muffled sounds. Don't worry, these are simply the working sounds of the MRI.

Sometimes a contrast dye is used to enhance the areas that are being scanned. The contrast dye helps make the details of the MRI image clearer.

If a contrast dye is being used, it is injected through a vein in the arm usually near the end of the test.

How Long Does It Take?

An MRI usually takes from 20 - 60 minutes depending upon the area of the body being scanned.

How Will I Know The Results?

Once the images have been read by our radiologist, the results will be sent via fax to your doctor within 1 - 2 business days.

MRI Safety

Our facility wants to ensure your safety. It is important to inform the staff at the time you make your appointment of any surgery in which a medical device was implanted. We have powerful MRI machines, therefore, if you have had a surgery in which a medical device was implanted, please bring the MRI safety card with the model number/name of the device listed. This MRI Safety Card should have been provided to you by the facility where you had the surgical implant. If a card is not presented upon arrival or other arrangements have not been made, the exam may be rescheduled at the discretion of the technologist and radiologist.

No pacemaker or defibrillator is allowed. Please remove all loose metallic objects, including metallic body piercings, hearing aids, bobby pins, acupuncture needles and foil drug patches. Patients in need of physical assistance (walking/standing) please contact the office prior to your exam.

In order to ensure your safety:

- Wear athletic clothing with no metal
- All jewelry and hair pieces must be removed (including plastic)
- Any and all piercings must be taken out prior to exam
- For women having any spinal studies, be prepared to remove bras unless fully elastic. If wearing a bra to your exam, please arrive early to change in the dressing room.

For MRI of the Breast: All previous (5 year) mammograms/breast screening reports/images on CD or film are needed for diagnostic completeness.