

## MRI

An MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scanner uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves instead of radiation to study the area of the body that requires evaluation. Computers then convert the signals to images that the radiologist can read.

### What to Expect

During the MRI, you will lie on a padded table within a short cylinder. If the area of the body between the feet and knees is being imaged, then your head will be outside of the cylinder. If the head, neck, shoulders or spine is being imaged, then your feet will be outside the cylinder. If you are concerned about claustrophobia, bring someone in the room with you during the scan and/or tell your physician how you feel. Your physician may give you a medication to reduce anxiety.

The scan could last between 15-60 minutes, depending on the MRI scan ordered. You must lie still during that time. If requested, you will receive frequent updates on the remaining time. Many patients, however, choose to rest or sleep during the scan and do not want to be disturbed. Please let us know your preference.

Some scans require the injection of a contrast material (dye) to enhance the details of certain organs or tissues. If this is the case, it will require either an injection with a needle or the use of an IV, depending on the area of the body being scanned. A scan without dye will be done first. The dye will then be injected and a second scan will be done. Your doctor will receive a written report about 48 hours later.

### How to Prepare

1. Please do NOT bring the following items to your appointment: jewelry, watches, coins, credit cards, papers and cell phones. These objects can distort the image so you will not be permitted to have them with you during the scan. Articles of clothing that have zippers, rivets, wires, hooks, belt buckles can cause distortion, too. You may change into a gown or you may wear your own clothes if they do NOT contain metal. Other man-made items in your body may also cause image distortion. You will be asked to complete a questionnaire before the scan to determine if your body can be safely imaged.
2. If the pancreas or pancreatic duct system will be scanned, then do NOT eat or drink three (3) hours before the MRI. No special preparation is required for other MRI scans.
3. If you have a pacemaker or internal defibrillator, you cannot have an MRI.
4. If you are breastfeeding, please contact the technologist at least 24 hours before the MRI at 216-297-3185.
5. Please arrive 10 minutes before your appointment and bring the requisition/order form for the test. Please bring your insurance card with you.

### Appointments

Call 216.382.2853. When you schedule your appointment, please inform the scheduler of

any other test(s) you have scheduled for that day as well as any food allergies or intolerances. Also, please give the same information to the receptionist on the day of your scan.