

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI) GUIDANCE

WHAT IS AN MRI

An MRI is a procedure that utilizes a magnetic field and radio waves to create cross sectional images of the body.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Before coming into the MRI trailer you will be asked to remove all accessories to include: wallet, jewelry, and hairpins. You may also be asked to remove your clothing and put on a patient gown if your clothing has any type of metal. If you have any metal or electronic devices in your body it is imperative that you tell the technologist before entering the MRI trailer. Once you are in the room and free of any metal you will be asked to lie on a table. This table will move through a thick donut looking machine called a gantry. This opening is long and narrow and depending on body size it can accommodate a weight of 350 pounds or less. You can expect to be lying on this table for an average of 45 minutes. If you have a problem with claustrophobia please tell your provider before arriving for the exam. You will be asked to put earplugs in your ears for hearing protection. Once you are already the technologist will step out of the room and the exam will start. There will be a lot of various loud tapping sounds. It is very important to try to relax and not move during the procedure or it can prolong the exam due to blurriness. In some procedures it may be necessary to inject a contrast material to enhance the images. When the exam is complete you can get dressed and continue with your regular routine. If you have chronic or acute renal failure, please discuss the risks of receiving Gadolinium contrast with your ordering provider and bring it to the attention of the MRI staff. If you are over 350 pounds or have severe claustrophobia you may be referred out to the network for your procedure.