

About Your MRI Scan



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What is an MRI Scan?

An MRI scan (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) is a special test that makes a set of pictures (or images) of a part of your body. This test uses a strong magnet and radio-frequency waves to make the pictures. It does not use X-rays or radiation. It is a painless and safe way for your health care provider to see inside your body.

How should I get ready for an MRI Scan?

- You can eat and drink before the test.
- Take your medicines as you usually do.
- Wear comfortable clothes. If your clothing has a lot of metal snaps, zippers, buckles, or rivets, you may need to change into a hospital gown.
- Do not take any sharp metal objects into the test room.
- Leave all jewelry, watches, credit cards and bank cards at home or with a family member. Do not bring them into the test room.
- Take off all hairpins, clips, barrettes, wigs, piercings and any removable dental work (dentures, retainers, etc.) before the test.

If you are a patient staying in the hospital, your appointment will be made for you.

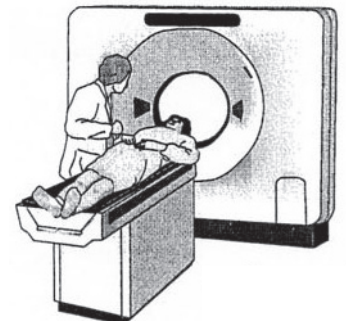
If you are a clinic patient, when you make the appointment for your test tell the clerk if :



- You are pregnant or might be pregnant.
- You have ever had any surgery or you have metal prostheses, implants, plates, screws, a pacemaker or aneurysm clips.
- You have had an eye injury or metal in either of or both your eyes.
- You weigh more than 300 pounds.
- You have claustrophobia (a fear of being closed in).
- You have trouble lying flat and holding still.

What happens during the test?

The technologist will help you lie down on the MRI Scan table. This table rolls into a scanner. This is like a narrow tunnel that fits closely around your body. It is normal to feel closed in.



You will hear very loud buzzing and thumping noises during the test.

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The test will not hurt. The technologist will be checking on you all during the test.

You must hold very still during the test. Try to stay relaxed. If you move, your pictures will not be clear. All pictures that are not clear must be taken again and this will make your test last longer.

The test may last up to 2 hours. This depends on the type of test your doctor ordered or how well you can hold still.



The nurse may need to start an IV in a vein in your arm if the doctor has ordered contrast (dye). The nurse will tell you if you need an IV.

When will I find out the results of the MRI scan?



If you are in the hospital, the health care provider who ordered your test will tell you about your test results when they are ready. If you are a clinic patient your health care provider will tell you about your results at your next clinic appointment.

Be sure to keep this important appointment. If you do not have a follow-up clinic appointment, call and schedule one with your health care provider.