

MRI Examination

MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging. It uses a very strong magnet with radio waves to produce clear images of various parts of the body.

The MRI scanner looks similar to a cylinder or tube that is open at both ends. If you think you may be uncomfortable lying in this type of space, please ask your primary care provider to prescribe some medication to help you relax. If you do take a sedative, you must have someone drive you to and from your exam.

An MRI usually lasts between 20 and 30 minutes. It is important that you remain still during this time. If you take medication to manage pain, you should continue to do so in order for you to be comfortable during the exam. If you are unable to lie still, we may not be able to obtain clear images.

During the scan, the machine makes loud knocking noises, similar to a jackhammer. We will give you hearing protection, and will be able to talk to you during the exam. For safety reasons, the patient is usually the only person allowed in the scan room.

What Should I Do to Prepare?

We ask that you follow these steps if you are coming for an MRI:

- This is a fragrance-reduced hospital, so please don't wear scented products such as perfume or cologne;
- Wear a comfortable outfit that is easy to change in and out of;
- Remove all jewelry and metallic items (we recommend you leave them at home);
- Take your usual medications, and bring a driver if you are taking sedation; and
- Register at Patient Registration.

Notes:

Please feel free to write down any questions or concerns you want to ask the technologist before your procedure.

Contact Information

If you have questions about your MRI exam, please contact the MRI department at 519-464-4400 Ext. 4491.