

Is MRI safe?

MRI is a non-invasive imaging technique. The procedure is painless and does not involve any ionizing radiation. There is no known side effect.

However, there are safety concerns for the MR environments. One should bear in mind that the magnetic field is ALWAYS ON. Metallic objects (such as keys, coins) can be dangerous when they are being attracted by the strong magnetic field and thus must be removed before entering the scan room.

Metallic implants or metallic foreign bodies also pose concerns on MR safety. Some of them are MR safe while some are not. It is necessary to discuss with the MR staff before any MR procedure;

Common metallic implants/medical device are:

- Cardiac pacemaker/defibrillator
- Implanted electronic devices
- Brain aneurysm clips
- Neural stimulator
- Cochlear implants
- Artificial heart valve
- Orthopaedic metallic implant or pin

What if I am Claustrophobic?

Most patients who are claustrophobic can still undergo an MRI examination with the assistance of our staff (An intercom system is available between patient and technologist and an emergency call bell will be provided). Some may need mild sedations prescribed by doctor. If needed, a family member is allowed to stay with the patient in the scan room throughout the examination.

How will I find out the MR examination results?

After the MR examination, our radiologist will interpret your MR scan and issue an imaging report to your doctor who will then explain the findings and diagnosis to you.

Is there any side effects or complications of contrast agent?

The contrast agent used during an MRI scan typically has very few or no side effects.

Precautions are taken if you ever had history of allergy or renal disease. Please discuss with our staff for your safety.



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Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

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What is Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)?

MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scan is a technique that utilizes strong magnetic field and radio waves to produce diagnostic images. The images provide detailed, information of both bone and soft tissues in the body.

Procedures

Before your examination begins, our staff will complete a safety checklist with you to make sure that you are safe to be scanned, and answer any questions that you may have.

During the MRI exam, you will be asked to lie on a moveable table, with the examination region positioned within the isocenter of the magnetic field inside the bore.

The examination takes about 15-30 minutes per body part. The scanner generates loud knocking noises during the scan; earplugs or headphone are provided to minimize the noise. The radiographer can communicate with you via an intercom system.



Siemens MRI Prisma

Do I need contrast agent for the MRI exam?

Depending on the examination requested by your doctor and the clinical indications, you may need contrast enhanced study. Our staff will discuss this with your doctor and you before proceeding with a contrast enhanced study.

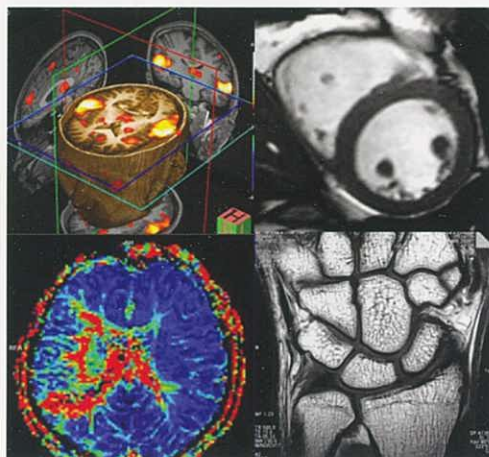
Preparation

There is usually no need for any special preparation prior to your examination. You may continue to eat and drink, but if you are going to have MRI abdomen, pelvis and MRCP study, you have to fast 4-6 hours before the examination. You may take any prescribed medication as usual.

Special preparation is needed for some examinations, e.g. cardiac, prostate with endorectal coil, functional MRI etc., our staff will provide further detail when you are making the appointment.

Please bring reports and films of previous imaging studies such as MRI, CT, PET or Ultrasound scan for the radiologist to compare directly to your present MR scan.

If your child (below 8 years-old) is going to have the MR examination, he or she may need sedation. He or she must not eat or drink (except medications with a small amount of water) 4 hour prior to the exam (for infants, fasting for 3 hours is enough).



Special attention

Please inform the duty radiographer if you have any metallic implant or prosthesis such as

- Cardiac pacemaker
- Artificial heart valves
- Orthopaedic prosthesis
- Brain aneurysm clip
- Neural stimulator

If you have any previous surgery with metallic implant, please be sure to inform the duty radiographer. Certain models of the medical devices are vulnerable to malfunction or damage in the MR environment and may even cause hazards to you.

Remove personal possession such as hearing aid, spectacles, removable dentures, hair pins, jewellery, watch, wallet, keys, and mobile phone before entering the scan room because these metallic objects can be dangerous under the magnetic field or they can affect the image quality.

Credit cards or magnetic tickets must be kept outside the scan room as the magnetic field can erase the card information.

What if I am pregnant or breast-feeding?

MRI is considered safe and without using ionizing radiation. Nonetheless, MRI is generally not recommended during the first twelve weeks of pregnancy (first trimester). The decision to proceed with MR study during pregnancy needs to be made after thorough discussion between patient, referring doctor and radiologist.

Breast-feeding after the injection of gadolinium-based MR contrast agents is considered safe since only about 0.01% of the maternal gadolinium dose is excreted into breast milk. Concerned mothers may discard milk for 24 hours after injection to eliminate fetal exposure to contrast agent.

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