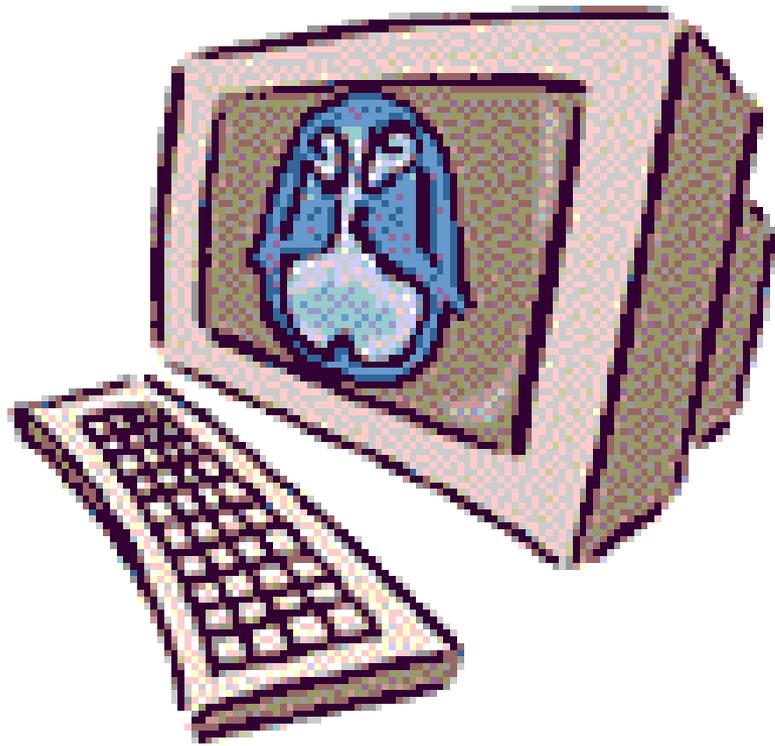


YOUR MRI EXAM:



**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

What is MRI?

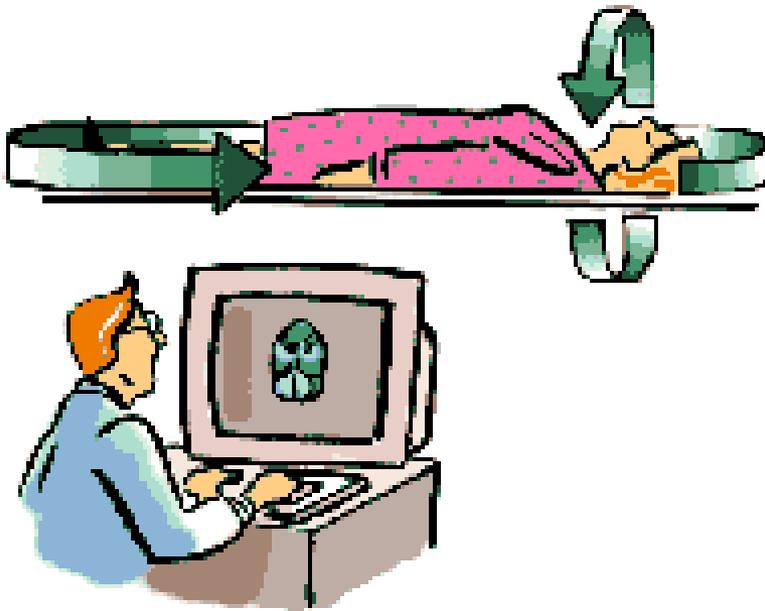


MRI is short for Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

MRI is an advanced technology that lets your doctor see internal organs, blood vessels, muscles, joints, tumors, areas of infection, and more -- without x-rays, surgery, or pain.

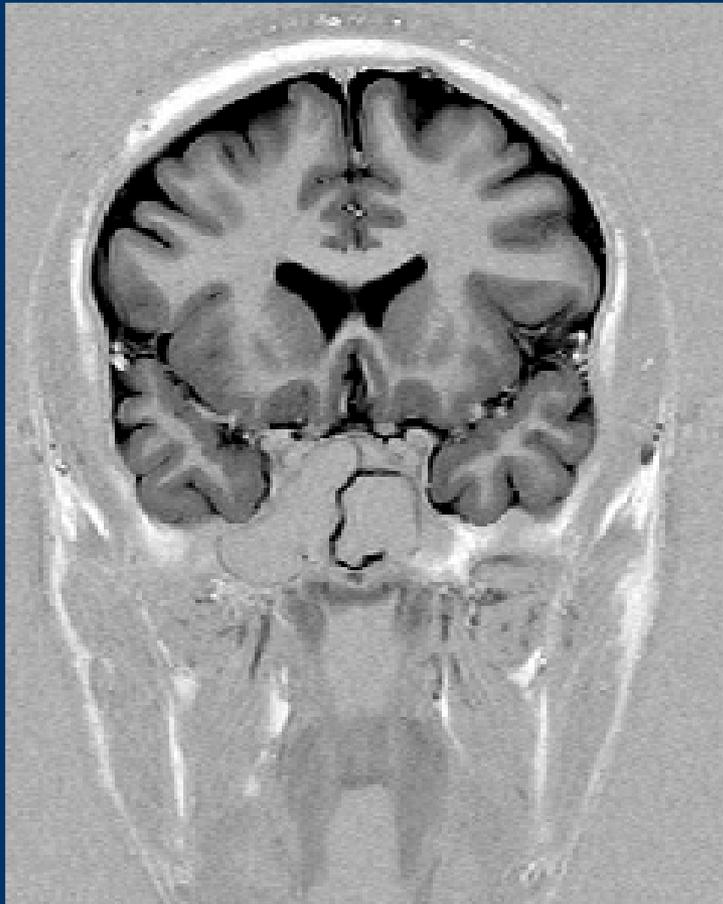
It's important to know that MRI will not expose you to any radiation.

How does the MRI machine work?



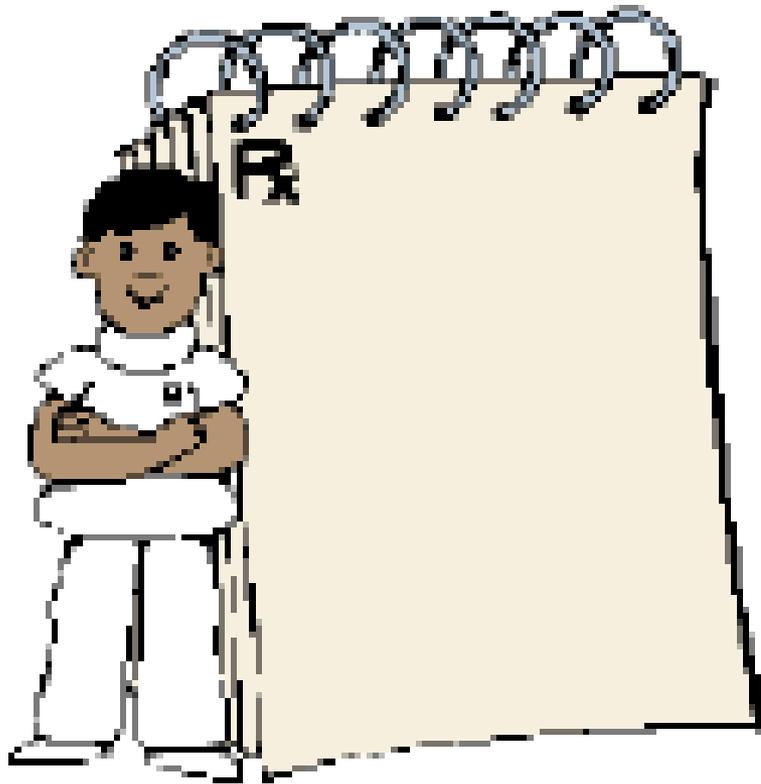
- The MRI scanner uses a magnetic field and radio waves with a powerful computer.
- This creates an image of the inside of your body that is much clearer than can be obtained with most other methods.
- MRI is very safe; in fact, it makes use of natural forces and has no known harmful effects.

Why an MRI?



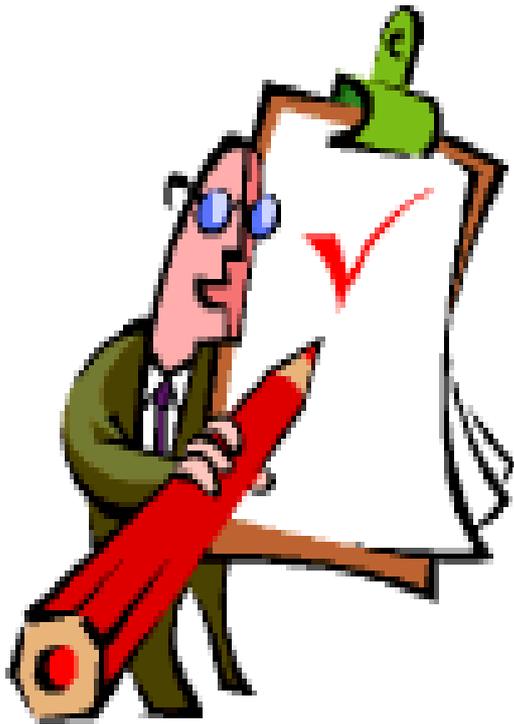
- MRI can provide early detection of many conditions, so treatment can be more effective.
- The excellent quality of MRI images can also provide the best possible information if surgery is required.
- If there is an abnormality, MRI can show exactly where it is, its size, and whether or not it has spread.

How should I get ready for the exam?



- In most cases, no special preparation is needed.
- You can eat and drink your usual diet, work, or play sports (unless you have an injury!) - and take any prescription medications you need.
- However, there may be some circumstances in which you'll be given specific instructions by your doctor to follow before the exam.

What will be expected of me?



- You will be required to complete a mandatory Patient screening form.
- Information pertaining to any previous medical history and procedures will be requested.
- All information will be kept confidential.
- All individuals entering the MR environment will be required to complete the screening form and process.
- The MRI exam will not be performed without the completed form.

Patient size is a limiting factor



- Pt weight is requested on the screening form for safety reasons.
- Large sized patients may be unable to safely undergo a MRI exam.
- It is a matter of girth size more so than actual patient weight.
- Patients with a large BMI may be require to undergo a “ fitting” appointment to determine if they will fit safely into the scanner.
- The hydraulic table does have a weight limit of approx 400 lbs.
- The bore of the scanner is approximately 60 cm.

Are there any restrictions with the exam?



YES !

Because the MRI machine uses a strong magnetic field, which will move objects made with iron or steel, caution must be used to ensure safety.

- This interaction between the magnetic field and metal is a constant concern.
- Let your Doctor or Technologist know if you have any foreign devices in your body.

Restrictions



The following devices are not permitted to be scanned in MRI:

- A pacemaker or cardiac leads
- Intra-cranial Aneurysm / vascular clips
- Cochlear implants
- Certain ocular implants
- A neuro-stimulator (Tens-unit)
- Implanted infusion devices /stimulators.

Special circumstances with Other Implanted devices



More information may be required to confirm the safety of a unknown implanted device. Surgical records containing the name and model of device may be needed for the any of the following:

- Metal Implants
- Steel surgical staples ,clips, IUD's, diaphragms ,filters, stents, valves and wire mesh.
- Any implant or prosthesis made partially or wholly of iron or steel.

Why may I need an X-ray?



- MRI uses a strong magnet that will attract certain metals.
- Care must be taken to avoid placing persons with metal in their eyes into a strong magnetic environment.
- Pre-MRI X-rays may be required to check for intra-orbital metal if at **any time** you have welded, grinded or suffered a penetrating eye injury.

What if I may be pregnant?

If you're pregnant, let your doctor or the Technologist know.

Conclusive studies are being performed to determine the safety of MRI and pregnancy.

MRI is generally not performed during the first trimester of pregnancy. After this time an MRI exam on pregnant patient is evaluated on a Risk versus benefit basis.

Another imaging modality may be used to get the required medical information.



What about other Metal objects ?

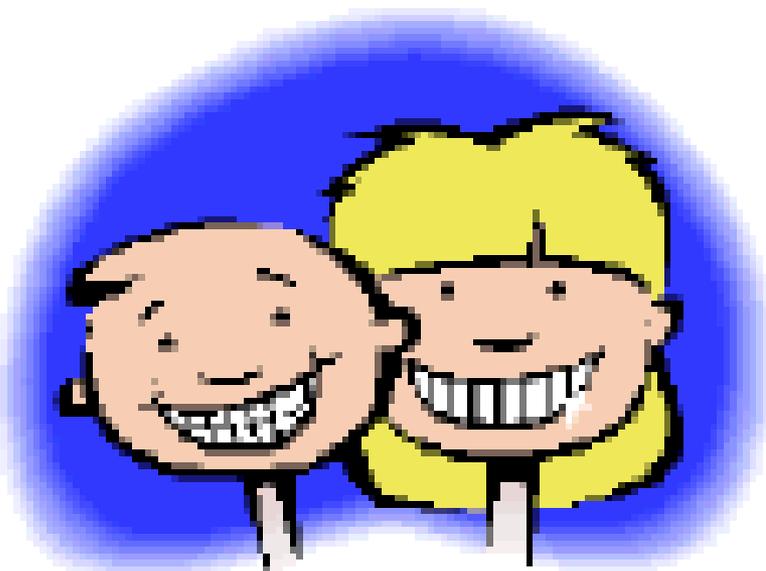


Please don't bring any of the following items into the exam room.

A secure place to store your valuables will be provided.

- Jewelry
- Coins
- Watches
- Keys
- Dentures
- Hearing aids
- Bank cards
- Eye glasses

What about metal in dental work?



- Most dental work is not affected by the MR scanner.
- Some dental fillings and braces may cause distortion of the MRI image.
- The distorted images may not be diagnostic and accurate exam result may not be provided.
- Another imaging modality may provide an alternative method of diagnosis.

How Do I dress for the exam?



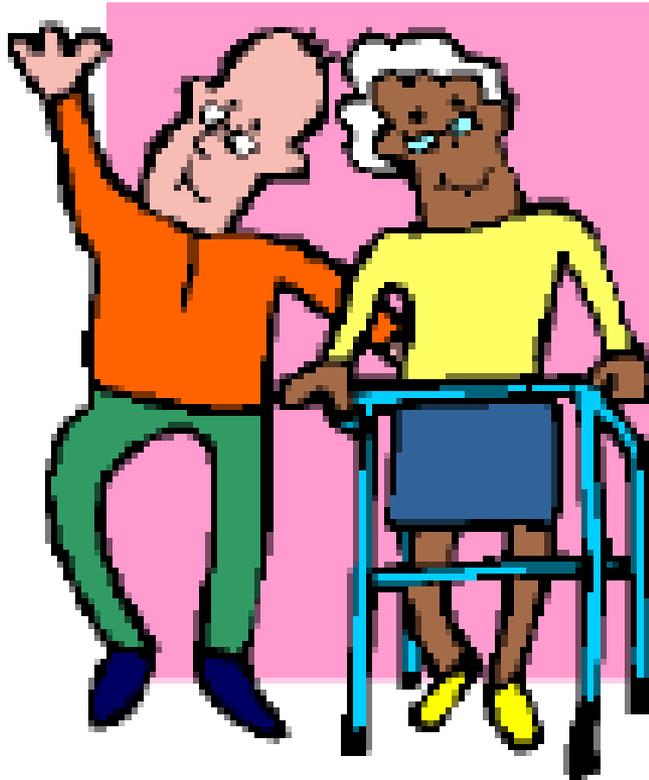
You will be required to change into a hospital gown.

Street clothes are not appropriate for MRI exams.

Zippers, Buttons, snaps and certain Synthetic fibers can be hazardous in the MRI scanner.

May I bring someone with me?

Yes



- Although they will have to wait in a waiting room while the scan is being done.

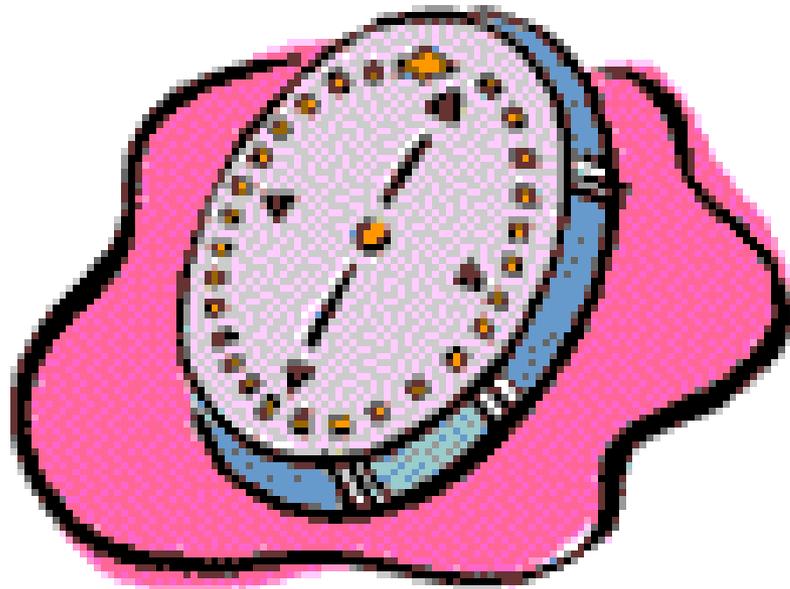
Can I talk to the Technologist?

YES



- While you are in the MRI scanner you can communicate with the technologist through an intercom system.
- Also, you will be given a call button to alert the technologist if you require assistance in the scan room.

How long does the scan take?



- A typical exam length is 15-30 minutes long.
- Some exams are more detailed and require extra time.
- These detailed exams usually take no more than 1 hour

What is the exam like?



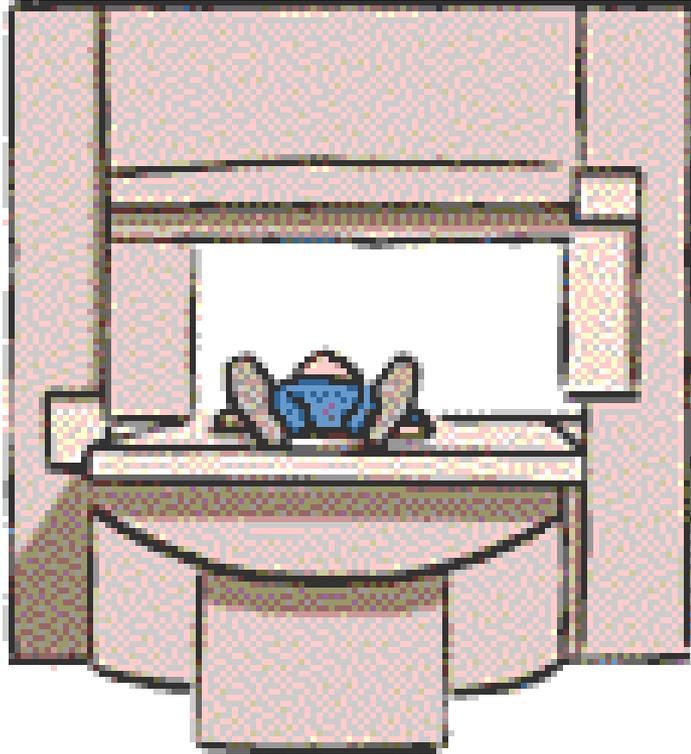
- To begin the exam, you will lie down on the scan table.
- The only thing you must do is **HOLD STILL**.
- If you move, the scans will be out of focus - and you may have to repeat the exam.

What will the scan feel like?



- You may feel warm or sweaty during the scan. This is common. The scanner has fans to help to cool you.
- You may feel the scanner vibrate as it takes pictures.
- You will here many different knocking sounds.

What will the scan sound like?



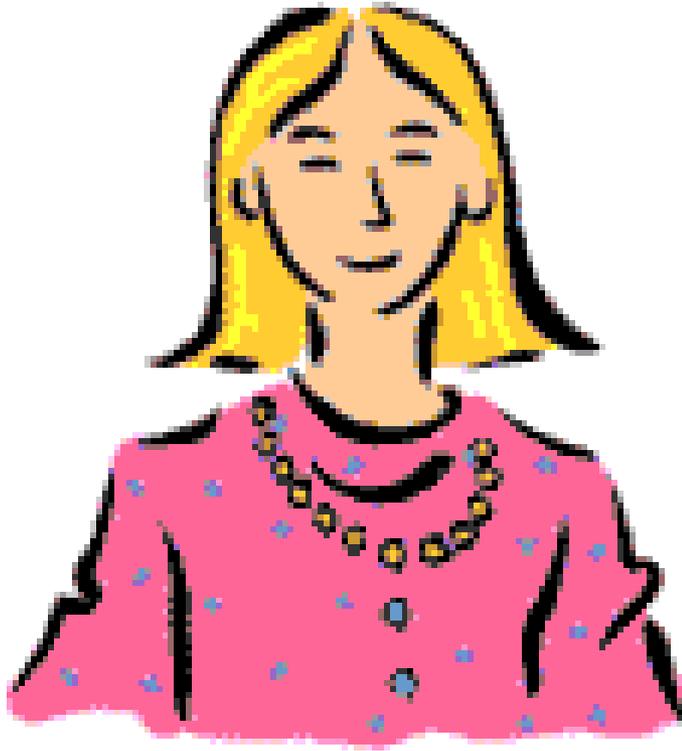
- When the machine starts to work, you'll hear some loud knocking sounds.
- These sounds occur whenever the MRI pictures are being taken.
- Think of them as the clicks a VERY large camera would make when taking pictures!
- We will provide headphones with music to help block out the knocking sounds.

Will I need any injections?



- Only , If necessary.
- You may be given a MRI contrast agent called Gadolinium.
- This allows the Radiologist to see the image more clearly.
- MRI contrast agents typically have few or no side effects.
- Nursing mothers must refrain from breast feeding for 24 hours post Gadolinium injection.

Will I feel any different after the exam?



- You may feel well rested.
- In fact, some people even fall asleep during the exam.
- You will feel normal and can go back to your everyday activities.

What if I take an oral sedation?



- Most patients successfully complete the MRI exam .
- However, If a prior MRI exam was unsuccessful due to claustrophobia: Your Doctor **may** decide to prescribe light oral sedation.
- This will help relax you for your exam.
- However, you will not be permitted to drive after the exam. You will need to make alternate arrangements.

What can I do to make it go faster?



- Your cooperation and participation is essential to the success of your exam
- Listen to instructions from the MRI Technologists.
- Most important, remain as still as you can while you being scanned.
- Every effort will be made to make you comfortable and to ensure the success of your MRI exam.

How do I get my MRI exam results?



- The Doctor that ordered your MRI exam will receive your results, this usually takes approximately one week after your exam date.
- You will most likely need to make an appointment with the ordering Doctor or your family Doctor to receive your results.
- It is your responsibility to contact your Doctor's office to make an appointment and / or confirm the policies practiced in the office to receive your exam results.

What if I need more information?



If you have any questions or concerns , please contact the Doctor's office that has ordered your exam.

OR

Contact the diagnostic Imaging department where your exam has been scheduled.