

MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)

An MRI is a safe, painless test. It uses radio waves and a magnetic field to take pictures of soft tissues, organs and bones. The pictures provide information that can help your doctor diagnose the problem that you are having.

Arrive on time for your test. The test takes 30 to 90 minutes.

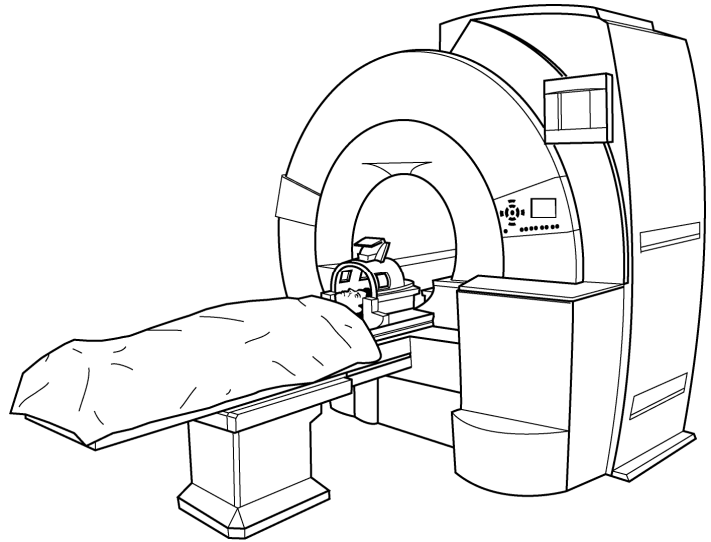
To Prepare

- **If pictures are being taken of your liver or pancreas, do not eat or drink for 4 hours before the test.**
- Let the staff know right away if you:
 - ▶ Are or think you could be pregnant
 - ▶ Are breastfeeding
 - ▶ Weigh over 300 pounds or 136 kilograms
 - ▶ Have a cardiac pacemaker, or other implanted device, such as an insulin pump or stimulator
 - ▶ Have aneurysm clips
 - ▶ Have metal shrapnel or fragments inside your body
 - ▶ Have a replacement joint or plate
 - ▶ Have an allergy to contrast medicine
- Remove any items that can be affected by the magnet. These may include hairpins, jewelry, coins, dentures, keys or credit cards. Please leave valuable belongings at home.
- You will be asked to change into a hospital gown.
- You may have an IV (intravenous) put in your arm to give you contrast medicine during the test.

- If being in a small space scares you, talk to your doctor before the test. Your doctor may order some medicine to help you relax.
- You can eat, drink and take your medicines before the test.

During the Test

- You will lie on a table in the middle of a long tube-like machine.
- The table slides into the opening of the machine until the part of your body to be checked is in the center.
- If you are having a test of your head, you may need to wear a helmet.
- Lie very still during the test. You may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds during the test.
- The machine may make a loud noise while pictures are taken. You may be given earplugs to wear.
- You can talk to the staff through a speaker. Tell the staff if you need help or are uncomfortable.



After the Test

- You may drive home after the test if you were not given medicine to help you relax during the test. **If you were given medicine to help you relax, an adult must be with you to take you home.** It is not safe for you to drive or leave alone.
- If you were given contrast medicine during the test, drink 6 to 8 (8-ounce) glasses of liquid to flush the contrast out of your body. Good liquids to drink are water, milk and juice. Limit the amount of caffeine you drink such as coffee, tea and soft drinks.

- Test results are sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share the results with you.

Talk to the staff if you have any questions or concerns.

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