

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) - What Do I Need To Know Before My MRI?

Your doctor has ordered a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

What is a MRI?

MRI uses a magnetic field, radio waves, and a computer to create detailed image slices of your body. These soft-tissue images allow the radiologist to evaluate different types of body tissue.

If you have a pacemaker or brain aneurysm clips, you cannot have a MRI. Please inform your doctor.

How do I prepare for the MRI?

Before arriving

- Let your doctor know if you are fearful of small, enclosed areas or have pain when lying on your back for more than 30 minutes. Your doctor may order a medicine to help you relax during the exam.
- Bring a current list of all your medicines including prescription medicines, over the counter medicines, vitamins, supplements, and herbals with you.
- Leave all jewelry and valuables at home.
- Wear comfortable clothing, such as a sweat shirt/sweat pants. You cannot wear clothing with any metal items, such as a metal zipper or buttons, in the MRI area. If this is not possible, something to wear will be provided for you.
- Bring something to help pass the time while waiting (a book, magazine, or music player).

Where do I park and check in when I arrive?

Saint Francis Hospital -6161 South Yale

- If you are scheduled on a week day, park in the Southwest Parking Garage and enter at the South Entrance. Follow the signs to the Radiology Department window.
- If you are scheduled on a weekend, park in the Southwest Parking Garage and enter at the South Entrance. You will need to check in at the Main Admitting desk, in the front lobby of the hospital.

Saint Francis Imaging Center - 6605 South Yale

- Park in the Imaging Center parking lot and check in at the Imaging Center desk

Saint Francis Broken Arrow - 2950 South Elm Place, Suite # 105

- Park in the Warren Clinic Office Building parking lot. Check in at Suite # 105.

Saint Francis Hospital South - 10501 E. 91st and highway 169

- Park in the parking lot and enter through the main South entrance and check in at the Concierge desk

After arriving

- You will be asked a series of questions about your medical history.
- Tell the nurse or technologist (before your MRI) if you
 - have any allergies
 - are pregnant or nursing
 - have any metal in your body, including your eyes (such as surgical metal, implanted devices, pumps, stimulators. If you have an implant card, bring it with you.
 - are on dialysis or have any history of renal or kidney disease.
- You will be asked to fill out a form to help decide if a MRI is safe for you. People with some implants (usually metallic) or with metal in their bodies (including some tattoos) may have difficulty with a MRI.
 - If you have cardiac stents, your MRI exam must be at least 8 weeks after your stents were placed.
- MRI uses a strong magnetic field. The radiologist needs to be informed of any of these potential problems, such as listed above, before you can proceed with the exam.
- The technologist will explain your procedure and answer any questions you may have while positioning you on the table.
- You will lie on the table with your arms to your sides for the exam.
- The table will slide your whole body into the magnet.
- During the scan you will hear intermittent humming, thumping, clicking, and knocking sounds.
- Earplugs will be provided to help mask the noise.
- In some cases, the radiologist asks for a contrast agent (dye) to improve the quality of the images. The dye is injected into a vein in the arm, which may cause a cool feeling.
- The technologist will always be able to see and hear you during your exam.
- You will be asked to hold very still.
- This procedure usually takes approximately 30 to 60 minutes.
 - There are no restrictions placed on you after this procedure.
 - You may eat or drive as normal.
- Your study will be reviewed by a radiologist.
 - The results will be sent to your ordering doctor.
 - Your doctor will discuss the results with you.

This information is not meant to replace the advice of your Healthcare Professional.
Be sure to ask questions and discuss your medical condition or any medical treatments with your doctor.