

About Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI & MRA)



Premier Imaging is accredited by the American College of Radiology.

- Premier Imaging patients appreciate spacious Siemens 1.5T 18 channel high-field MRI
- Designed to provide the most comfort, especially those patients with special needs, pain, mobility and/or respiratory issues are accommodated
- Integrated with audio system and i-pod dock for the use by our patients

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI & MRA) uses radiofrequency waves and a magnetic field to provide detailed pictures of internal organs and tissues.

Exam Preparation

- If you are on any medications that are necessary to take on a daily basis, please DO NOT withhold these medications without checking with our staff. If you are DIABETIC AND TAKE GLUGOPHAGE, METFORMIN, GLUCOVANCE, METAGLIP, ADVANDAMENT please alert our office at the time of scheduling your examination. You will be given specific information after your examination is completed.
- If you have any allergies to Iodine, other medications, or have asthma, please contact our office prior to your examination.
- If there is a possibility that you might be pregnant, please let our office know at the time of scheduling.
- If you have any questions regarding your examination, please be sure to contact our office and we will be glad to help you.

If for any reason you cannot make your scheduled appointment, please call to reschedule your appointment. If you need further directions, please contact our office at 816 941-1400.

ALL MRIs: Please alert the scheduler at time of scheduling if you have a pacemaker, any implants, and implanted pumps, metal in the eyes or vena cava filters. Please leave all jewelry and valuables at home.

Registration Process and Forms

On the day of your exam, please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment, in order to allow for registration and processing of paperwork. You must check in, and register with the clerical staff. Your insurance card is required for registration, and depending on your insurance carrier you may have a co-pay. If you have had X-rays or scans (or any exams on compact discs) to diagnose this same or similar problem at another facility, please make sure you bring them with you. These films or scans will be kept for reporting and then mailed back to the facility of origin.

Patient Preparation

After registration, when it is time for your examination, a technologist will escort you to the dressing room. You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and remove any jewelry or metallic objects. If you have a condition that requires you to take medication on a regular basis, you should keep to your regular medication schedule. Lockers are provided for secure lock up of your clothing and valuables.

Exam Procedure

The technologist will go over the MRI screening form with you, explain the procedure and answer any questions that you might have. You will then be escorted into the scan room. A stereo system with head phones is provided for the patient's comfort during the study to reduce perception of the loud humming and thumping sounds produced during the scanner's operation. The scan room has a large donut-shaped magnet with a padded table that moves you into the center of the machine once you are positioned. Whether or not you go into the machine head first or feet first, as well as, how far in you go, is determined by the type of exam being performed. In some cases a special piece of equipment called a surface coil, which is a radio antenna, is placed on or wrapped around the body part that is being imaged. The scanner is equipped with an emergency assistance alarm button; a two-way intercom for communication with the technologist. It is very important that you remain relaxed and try not to move during the scan. Even very slight movement of the part being scanned can cause very distorted images that will have to be repeated. For some exams, you may be asked to hold your breath for 10-30 seconds as the pictures are taken.

Length of Scan

The exam consists of several different scans that vary in length and type of sound they produce. Most exams take 30 to 45 minutes, but there are a few exams that take one to two hours. Some exams may also require the injection of a contrast agent called gadolinium. This contrast agent is a colorless fluid, which is injected into a vein in your arm. The contrast agent is very safe; its purpose is to make the details in the MRI images clearer and is standard for some types of examinations. If you require a contrast injection, the technologist will take you out of the scanner and inject it into a vein in your arm. The technologist will then return you to your original position in the scanner. Since we need the images before and after the injection to match, it is important that you do not move while the contrast medium is being administered. Please note, each MRI scan is individualized and tailored to

each patient's needs. If you have had an MRI scan before do not be concerned if this one is longer or shorter.

After the Exam

You will feel no after effects upon the completion of the study and may resume normal activity. It is advised that you have someone accompany you if you will be taking medication for claustrophobia as you may feel groggy for an extended period and you will not be permitted to drive.

After the exam, the radiologist and technologist will review the images to ensure diagnostic quality. If the quality is acceptable, you can go home. If more images are needed, they will usually be taken right away.

Your MRI Report

Your scan will be reviewed by a radiologist. The MRI report will be sent to your physician, and your physician will be the one to discuss the results with you.