

MRI Patient Preparation Information

MRI Preparation:

There is no special preparation for MRI scans. However, there are some important contra-indications:

- If you have a pacemaker you cannot have an MRI.
- If you have metal in your body, (artificial joints, metallic valves) you must let us know when scheduling. You may not be able to have the scan.
- If you are claustrophobic and your physician orders sedation, you must bring a person who will drive you home.
- If you have had stents placed in your body within the last two months, you cannot have an MRI.
- **Please let us know if you have a pacemaker, any metallic foreign bodies or if you are claustrophobic.**

To schedule an MRI under anesthesia or conscious sedation, call (561) 263-4414 and choose option 1.

MRI Exam Day:

For all MRI scans, you will most likely change into a hospital gown. Our changing areas are private and there is a secure locker for your clothes. It is best, however, to leave valuable items at home. If you are wearing anything metallic, such as jewelry, dentures, eyeglasses, or hearing aids that might interfere with the MRI scan, we will ask you to remove them. You should not have your credit cards in your pockets during the scan because the MRI magnet can affect the magnetic strip on the card. Patients who are having a brain / head scan should not wear make-up as some brands contain metal.

- Please arrive 60 minutes before your appointment. This hour is needed to complete the registration process and assessment by the anesthesiology/nursing team.
- When it is time for your exam, the technologist will escort you to the room, explain the exam, ask several questions and answer any questions you may have.
- You will be required to remove any metallic objects (jewelry, glasses, and clothing with zippers) and possibly put on a patient gown.
- If your exam requires contrast, you will be asked complete a history form.
- You will be placed on a table and guided into the machine.
- During the exam, you will hear knocking or thumping sounds. Sometimes this can be noisy, but earphones and music are available to help reduce the sound.
- You can bring a music CD of your own to listen to during the exam.
- You must lie still during the scan. There are microphones inside the machine so the technologist can communicate with you when needed.
- The exam takes 30 minutes to 2 hours depending on the exam ordered.
- When the exam is completed, the technologist will assist you off the table and you may dress and leave.
- Results will be forwarded to your physician, who will explain them to you.
- **If you were given a sedative, you will not be allowed to drive yourself home. Please make arrangements for transportation.**

PLEASE NOTE: If you are scheduled for an MRI, please bring completed MRI Contrast Screening, MRI Safety Screening, and Medication Report to your scheduled appointment.

If you have any questions or need additional information, call 561-263-3278.