



Radiology Services

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

What is MRI (magnetic resonance imaging)?

MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) is a painless way to look inside the body without using X-rays. Instead, it uses a large magnet, radio waves and a computer to take detailed pictures. The images produced can help your doctor detect and define differences between healthy and diseased tissue.

Before Your Exam

Arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled time to register. Orders for your exam are needed to perform the procedure—**we cannot proceed without them**. Please bring a copy of your insurance card. After you are registered in the business office, you will be directed to the MRI Department.

How should I prepare for the exam?

To provide you with the best care, the staff of the MRI Department at GHS may ask you certain questions concerning your medical history, such as the following:

- Are you pregnant? Typically, MRI is not recommended for pregnant women.
- Do you have any metal devices? Examples include ...
 - Cardiac pacemakers
 - Heart valve replacements
 - Cerebral aneurysm clips
 - Metal implants
 - Shrapnel or gunshot wound
 - Metal fragments in your eyes

If you have any of these devices, please inform the MRI Department before being scanned.

Unless told differently, you may eat and take your regular medications before your MRI. You will be asked to remove any metallic objects such as jewelry, hearing aids, dentures and partial plates before being scanned. You also will be required to change from your own clothing and into a hospital gown for your safety. Personal valuables will be secured by the MRI staff for safekeeping.

What happens during the MRI?

You will be asked to lie flat on a padded table. The table is designed to move into a tube that is open on both ends and surrounded by the magnet. The technologist is able to communicate with you through a two-way intercom for the entire length of the study.

You may be asked to lie very still for most of the exam. When the scanner is actually making pictures, you will hear a knocking noise, and you will be required to wear ear plugs during your exam. You may feel warm during the scan. Usually an MRI procedure will take about 30 minutes. Of course, if more than one study is required, this time will increase.

Will I be given injections?

In some cases, the radiologist may decide to use a contrast agent. The image-enhancement agent will be injected into a vein, usually the arm, to make some details of the image clearer. For certain clinical histories, a contrast agent is routinely used.

How do I get the results?

The radiologist will study the results of your exam and give a report to your personal physician. Your doctor will discuss these results with you. Sometimes, additional tests or treatment may be recommended.

What if I am claustrophobic?

At Greenville Health System, we can provide medication to aid those individuals who suffer from claustrophobia. Simply let your physician or the MRI Department know that you are claustrophobic, and they will call in a prescription for an oral sedative to your pharmacy. (You will need to provide the pharmacy's phone number.)

At Greenville Memorial Medical Campus, Hillcrest Memorial Hospital and Greer Memorial Hospital, nurses can provide you with other types of sedation as needed. This sedation must be scheduled in advance through the Central Scheduling Department by your doctor's office. You will need to refrain from eating, drinking and taking certain medications before being sedated. Your physician's office will give you this instruction before your exam. Our nurse will call you the day before your exam to answer any questions. Please provide your physician with correct phone numbers.

We hope you are pleased with the care you receive in the MRI Department. Our goal is to give you the very best care and attention.

For more information, please call Patient Scheduling at (864) 455-7774 or visit us online at ghs.org/radiology.