



## What Is An MRI?

Magnetic resonance imaging, commonly called an MRI, allows health care professionals to look inside the body without the use of x-rays. Because the MRI produces images from various angles, the radiologist can examine it from the best angle possible.

## Why Would I Need an MRI?

An MRI is done for many reasons such as:

- Finding tumors
- Locating bleeding, an injury, blood vessel disease, or infection
- Identifying brain and nervous system disorders
- Identifying abdomen and pelvis problems
- Finding heart, spine or musculoskeletal problems

Additionally, an MRI may provide more information about a problem seen on an x-ray, ultrasound, or CT scan. Sometimes, a contrast material may be used during an MRI to show abnormal tissue more clearly.

## What Are the Advantages of an MRI?

1. No exposure to radiation.
2. High quality images of soft tissue structures such as the brain, spinal cord, tendons, the eye and heart.
3. Shows blood flow through certain vessels and organs so issues with circulation can be identified.
4. Precise pictures that could lessen the need for certain diagnostic surgeries.
5. MRI scan is painless.



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## What Should I Do?

Generally speaking, there are no special preparations needed.

Before your scan, however, there are some things you may do:

- **Most importantly ... If you need an x-ray or blood work, please have it done several days before your MRI.**

Additionally ...

- There are no food or drink restrictions unless your doctor specifically makes that request.
- Take any medication(s) prescribed by your doctor unless otherwise directed.
- Bring a spouse or friend, if desired. That person may be able to stay with you during the scan. Likewise, a parent may be able to stay with a child.
- Because the MRI's magnet attracts metal, we ask that you leave any metal items, such as watches, money clips, electronic devices jewelry, at home.

We also recommend that you do not wear make-up, since some may contain a small amount of metal. Other items to leave at home or report to us are:

- Credit cards, cards with magnetic strips
- Hearing aids
- Pens, paper clips, keys, coins
- Hair barrettes, hairpins
- Clothing with metal zippers, buttons, snaps, hooks, underwires, or metal threads
- Shoes, belt buckles, safety pins

Items that may create a problem during an MRI exam:

- Pacemakers
- Implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICD)
- Neurostimulator
- Aneurysm clip
- Metal implant
- Implanted drug infusion device
- Foreign metal objects, especially in or near the eye
- Shrapnel or bullet wounds
- Permanent cosmetics or tattoos
- Dentures/teeth with magnetic keepers
- Other implants that involve magnets
- Medication patch (i.e., transdermal patch) that contains metal foil

## When You Arrive for Your MRI Scan

- We ask you to complete a screening form, even if you have done so before to ensure safety measures are followed.
- We ask you about the information on this form.
- Depending on the length and reason for the procedure, we may ask you to wear a hospital gown.
- We ask you to remove certain items before entering the exam area.
- We have earplugs and music available while you are having your scan.

MRIs can last anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours. Unless you receive sedation, or are told otherwise, you can drive home safely. The wide-bore MRI offers a wider opening for more space and comfort, accommodating the claustrophobic patient with precise and clear images for maximum interpretation.

### MRI scans are available at:

#### Medical Commons One

530 South Street, Greensburg, 724-832-4552

#### Excela Square at Norwin

8775 Norwin Avenue, North Huntingdon, 724-861-6307

#### Westmoreland Hospital

532 West Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, 724-832-4405

#### Latrobe Hospital

One Mellon Way, Latrobe, 724-537-1880

#### Frick Hospital

508 South Church Street, Mount Pleasant, 724-542-1826



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