

FAUQUIER  HOSPITAL
MEDICAL IMAGING DEPARTMENT
www.fauquierhealth.org
Questions? Call 540-316-4500

MRI PATIENT INFORMATION AND PREPARATION

Your physician has requested that you have an MRI scan.

Your appointment: _____ at _____
(date) (time)

- *You **must** have your physician order with you when you come for your MRI.*
- *Women who are pregnant, or suspect they may be pregnant, should not have any MRI examination without consulting their physician.*
- *A BUN/Creatinine lab test must be performed on all patients over age 60 within the 6 weeks prior to the exam.*

What is a MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (“MRI”) examination? MRI uses powerful magnet and radio waves to view certain types of body tissue differently than an x-ray or a CT scan. There is no radiation and the magnet and radio waves are harmless. Some of the exams may require an IV injection of contrast media to help visualize different types of body tissues.

How do I prepare for my MRI scan? Wear loose, comfortable clothing without snaps, zippers or metal of any kind. You may eat, drink and take any regular daily medication. We encourage you to go to the bathroom before the scan. Some of the exams may be quite lengthy and cannot be interrupted for bathroom breaks. You will be asked to remove all metallic items from your person, such as watches, jewelry, and hearing aids. You will be asked to remove your dentures as well. These items, along with your wallet and/or purse, must be locked in a locker, which will be provided for you, before entering the scanning room.

It is very important that you bring any x-rays related to your MRI with you on the day of your exam unless they were taken at Fauquier Hospital.

What can I expect during the MRI scan? A registered MRI technologist/ radiologic technologist will perform your exam. Upon arriving in the Imaging Department, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire. Once in the scan room, you will have an opportunity to ask any additional questions and receive further instruction. You will be asked to lie on a padded table and made as comfortable as possible. The magnet is open at both ends, so room air can circulate around you. A fan can be turned on for additional circulation, and blankets can be provided if you become cold.

During the scan, it is important to hold very still, as movement will cause blurring of the pictures. When the scanner is operating, you will hear a loud thumping noise and may feel a slight vibration. This is normal. You may listen to your choice of music while you are being scanned, or earplugs may be offered to you if you prefer.

How long will the MRI scan take? Each MRI scan is different, however most scans take from 30-45 minutes.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT METAL It is very important to inform the physician prior to the scan if you have any of the following metal implants or objects: aneurysm clips, artificial heart valves, bullets, cardiac pacemaker, metal joints, infusion pumps, surgical clips, shrapnel or any other type of metal in your body from any source. Additionally, if you have ever been a metal worker, it is important that you inform the physician of this, as you may be required to have your eyes x-rayed before having the scan.

What kind of effects will the MRI scan have on me? There are no ill effects from having an MRI scan. You may resume normal activity immediately after your scan.

How do I find out the results of my MRI scan? Your MRI scan will be reviewed by a radiologist (M.D.). The radiologist will send a report to your physician. The physician who ordered the MRI will give you the results of the scan.