



GREATER LANSING

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

MRI is a diagnostic scanning technique that produces detailed images of organs and structures within the body. The MRI scanner is a large, cylindrical machine that creates a strong magnetic field and uses radio waves, not x-rays, to create the images. An MRI is used to check for damage or abnormalities in soft tissues, joints, the brain, and the spinal cord, making it a valuable tool for diagnosing tumors, viewing tissue damage, and examining blood flow.

For an MRI, a magnetic field is created and pulses of radio waves are sent from a scanner. Signals from the hydrogen protons in your body are received by a computer that analyzes and converts them into an image of the part of the body being examined. This image appears on a viewing monitor.

An MRI examination assists your doctor in making a diagnosis. A radiologist will interpret the information from your MRI procedure and will report it to your doctor, who in turn will discuss the report with you. **If you have any x-rays related to your exam please bring them with you.**

An MRI is an outpatient procedure. If you know that you have an allergy (of any kind), tell the technologist prior to the examination. If you are taking prescription medications, be sure to tell the technologist. If you are a woman of childbearing age and there is a possibility that you may be pregnant or are breast-feeding, be sure to tell the technologist. If you have concerns regarding claustrophobia, please contact your physician for any medications needed.

Generally, an MRI procedure follows this process:

- ◆ All jewelry and metal objects must be removed because of the magnet. MRI scanning cannot be used for people who have pacemakers, defibrillators, brain aneurysm clips, or other implanted devices. You will be asked questions regarding your surgical history before the exam.
- ◆ You will lie on a table which will slide into a tunnel or tube shaped machine. The technologist will position the table in the tunnel so that the area of the body to be examined can be imaged. During the scanning process you hear a very loud knocking sound as the magnetic field is created and pulses of radio waves are sent from the scanner. Earplugs are given to help block the noise. An MRI usually takes 30 to 60 minutes, depending on the number of scans requested by the doctor.
- ◆ Some MRI exams require an injection of contrast material. If an injection is necessary the contrast will be given into a vein in your arm.
- ◆ If you need to reschedule your appointment, please call our central scheduling office at 975-2695. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your procedure, please call us at 975-7729.