

*We'd like to hear from you ...our patients!. Let us know how we may serve you better !*

## **QUESTIONS ?**

We want your MRI exam to be as comfortable and pleasant as possible. If you have any questions, please call the Diagnostic Center Radiology Department between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday at 850 - 969 - 2134.

## **HOW DO I GET MY RESULTS?**

A board –certified Radiologist will review your images and compare with previous images if indicated and provide an interpretation. A copy of this interpretation / report will be provided to your doctor (in most cases within 24 hours). Your doctor should contact you with the results of your exam.

## **PREPARING FOR YOUR MRI:**

No special preparation is needed prior to your MRI exam (excluding abdomen scans). On the day of your exam, you can eat and drink as you normally would, engage in your regular activities, and take any usual medication prescribed by your physician. You may be required to have lab work prior to your exam if your doctor ordered your test with intravenous contrast.



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## ***MRI*** *(MAGNETIC* *RESONANCE* *IMAGING)*

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# MRI: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

## What is Magnetic Resonance Imaging?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a sophisticated form of diagnostic imaging that uses magnetism, radio waves and computer technology to produce a very clear picture (image) of the body, without using radiation. MRI offers a painless, non-invasive way to obtain information about your body that can lead to early detection and treatment of disease and injury.

**What are the benefits of MRI?** The images produced by MRI are able to show tissue, organs, ligaments, tendons, bones, blood vessels and other body structures with greater clarity than other imaging methods. MRI is safe, comfortable and painless. With MRI, there is no ionizing radiation, and no known harmful side effects. For certain studies, an injection of a contrast agent may be necessary to better visualize specific anatomical structures.

**What will the exam be like?** Your MRI exam is a very simple procedure. The specially-trained technologist will help position you on a cushioned scanning table which rests in the center of the donut-shaped MRI magnet. Once you are comfortable the table will be moved into the scanner opening. The MRI is open at the ends, allowing light and air inside. For best

results, you will be asked to lie very still – movement blurs the image, just like a photograph. You will hear a “knocking” sound as the magnetic field is adjusted to generate the images. This is normal, and ear plugs are available to minimize the sound.

During the exam, the technologist will be able to see and hear you at all times, and talk to you if needed.

**How long will the Exam Take?** Your exam will take approximately 30 – 60 minutes, depending on the area of the body being examined.

**What should I do after the exam?** Since there are no side – or after – effects with MRI, you can resume your normal activities as soon as your exam is over.

**What we need to know about you before your exam.** Once your doctor has scheduled your exam, we will need to know some important information from you in order to make your exam safe and effective. Prior to your exam, we will contact you to confirm your appointment and to answer any questions that you may have. Upon arrival we will request that you answer a questionnaire, which will assist both the technologist in assuring your safety as well as the radiologist in interpreting your exam.

## TIPS

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1. Plan to arrive about 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time.
2. Wear comfortable clothing, such as a sweat suit, *without any metal fastenings*.
3. Please leave any unnecessary metal objects at home. Lockers will be available for your valuables if necessary.
4. Please be kind and call should you need to reschedule or cancel your appointment.

## Financial Arrangements:

Please be sure to bring your medical insurance card and complete information with you to your MRI exam. We accept most major insurance as well as Medicare and Medicaid. For questions about your individual insurance policy coverage for MRI, please contact your insurance carrier directly. Your physician's office will be responsible for obtaining a pre – certification from your carrier if necessary.

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