

## MRI EXAM

What is an MRI exam?

MRI, short for Magnetic Resonance Imaging is a type of imaging that uses magnetic fields and radio waves to generate images of your body. The MRI scanner creates a very strong magnetic field through the body, sending radio waves and assessing the response sent back from the different tissues. Under the influence of the magnetic field, different tissues send back different responses to the radio waves. Also, certain diseased or injured tissues send responses that are different than healthy ones. A computer in the scanner processes the different responses into images of the body. These are displayed as slices, like slices through a loaf of bread. The images are sent to a Radiologist for interpretation. A Radiologist is a specially trained doctor who can read the MRI exam.

How do I schedule an MRI exam?

1. Make sure you have your prescription from your doctor.
2. Make sure that you have your insurance Pre-authorization . Check with your doctor's office to see if one is required.
3. Please call Allegheny Imaging of McCandless at 412-367-7226(SCAN)
4. Please tell the scheduling person that you would like to make an appointment for an MRI exam.
5. You will be asked if you have a Pacemaker, Aneurysm clips, any metal implants, or have ever gotten metal in your eyes.
6. Please read the information exactly as it is written on your prescription to the scheduler.
7. Please provide the scheduler with the insurance authorization number.
8. Place your prescription in a safe place to bring with you to your scheduled exam.
9. Make sure you have your insurance to bring with you as well.

How do I prepare for the MRI exam?

Because the MRI scanner uses a very powerful magnet to create its images, metal that is sensitive to magnetic fields should never be close to the magnet. This means that we may ask that you change from your clothes into a gown or scrub like outfit. You will be asked a series of screening questions prior to entering into the scan area. These questions are designed to make sure that everyone is safe during your visit for your exam.

You will be asked to answer a questionnaire about your medical history. Please inform our staff if you have any metal in your body such as a pacemaker, aneurysm clips in your brain, heart valves, inner ear implants, implanted spinal cord stimulators, pain stimulators, or metal fragments in your eyes from an injury or metal grinding fragments.

Some surgically implanted objects are safe in the MRI scanner: however, our Radiologist specializing in this area will determine if the object or device in question is safe.

You will be asked to remove any metallic objects such as jewelry, hairpins, earrings, watches and glasses. All cell phones, hearing aids, pagers, loose change, wallets, keys, credit cards and non permanent dentures will be removed as well. You may either leave these items at home or you can lock them in one of our secured lockers.

Is there a special preparation for the MRI exam?

If you are having an MRI of the Abdomen, please fast for 4 hours prior to your exam. If you have to take medications, please take with the least amount of food or water tolerable.

What if I am claustrophobic?

If you know that you are claustrophobic, please notify us. Our MRI scanner is a “Short Bore” MRI. This means it is short and very roomy. For many of our exams, your head may be out of the scanner.

If you feel a sedative would help you through the exam, you must secure a prescription from your physician and bring the medication with for your exam. You must also have a driver if you are taking any medication to overcome the effects of claustrophobia.

If you are unable to lie still in one position for 30-40 minutes due to pain, you may secure a prescription from your physician. Once again, you will need to have a driver.

A family member may accompany you into the MRI scan room if you wish. They will of course have to be screened for any metal metallic objects or issues preventing them from being in a magnetic field.

What should I expect during the MRI exam?

You may be asked to change into a gown or scrub like outfit. You will lie on the MRI exam table. You may be headfirst, feet first on your stomach or flat on your back depending on the exam your physician has ordered. You will be made as comfortable as possible. You will be given a squeeze ball to hold in one of your hands in case you need the technologist during the exam. You will be given either ear plugs or a headset to help reduce the rhythmic knocking or hammering sounds throughout the exam. Most people are not bothered by the sound as the head set or ear plugs help to muffle the noise.

Will I have an IV for the MRI exam?

Some MRI exams do require the use of an IV solution or contrast dye during the exam. The technologist will inform you and use a small needle to inject the contrast for the exam.

What should I expect after the exam?

You may resume your normal activities after the MRI exam. Your exam will be interpreted by a Sub specialized Radiologist. This means a physician who has extra training in this area. A written report will be sent to your physician within 2 days. Your physician will notify you of the results.

Allegheny Imaging of McCandless is a full service Imaging Center with the following service offered:

MRI

CT

Ultrasound

Bone Densitometry

X-Ray

Digital Mammograms

Nuclear Medicine

Cardiac Nuclear Medicine

Echocardiography

For more information call:

Allegheny Imaging of McCandless

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