

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

MRI



DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING CENTER

AT TEXAS NEUROLOGY

www.dfwmri.com

Appointment Date

Appointment Time

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your appointment time.
To reschedule your appointment, call **214.826.6700**.

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Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

MRI is a test that produces very clear pictures, or images, of the human body without the use of x-rays. It uses a large magnet, radio waves, and a computer to produce these images. It also lets your doctor see internal organs, blood vessels, muscles, joints, tumors, areas of infection, and more – without x-rays or surgery. Your physician may also order an MRA (magnetic resonance angiogram). This exam is used to evaluate vascular malformations, aneurysms, vertebrovascular and carotid atherosclerosis, thrombosis, and dissection. MRI is very safe; in fact, it makes use of natural forces and has no known harmful effects. It's important to know that MRI will not expose you to any radiation.

Patients who have the following can be safely examined with MRI:

- Surgical clips or sutures
- Post-cardiac surgical patients
- Artificial joints
- Staples
- Cardiac valve replacements (except the Starr-Edwards metallic ball/cage)
- Disconnected medication pumps
- Vena cava filters
- Brain shunt tubes for hydrocephalus

Do you have any of the following? If so, an MRI examination may be inadvisable. Ask your doctor.

- Heart pacemaker
- Cerebral aneurysm clip (metal clip on a blood vessel in the brain)
- Pregnant
- Implanted medication pump(s), or implanted nerve stimulators (TENS) for back pain
- Metal in eye or eye socket
- Cochlear (ear) implant for hearing impairment
- Implanted spine stabilization rods
- Severe lung disease (such as tracheomalacia or bronchopulmonary dysplasia)
- Weigh more than 350 pounds
- Not able to lie on back for 30-80 minutes
- Claustrophobia (fear of closed or narrow spaces)



Before the test

Personal items such as your watch, wallet, including any credit cards with magnetic strips (they will be erased by the magnet), and jewelry should be left at home if possible, or removed prior to the MRI scan. Secured lockers are available to store personal possessions. Allow 2 hours for your MRI exam. In most cases, the procedure takes 30-80 minutes, and several dozen images may be obtained.

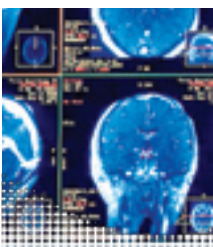


During the test

You will be asked to change into comfortable scrubs during the MRI scan, which are provided by our center. As the MRI scan begins, you will hear the equipment making a muffled thumping sound, which will last for several minutes. Other than the sound, you should experience no unusual sensations during the scan.

- * For certain types of scans, an injection of a contrast material (gadolinium) may be administered.
- * Changes in serum iron and calcium have been observed in patients who have received some forms of gadolinium. The clinical significance is unknown. Certain forms of gadolinium may interfere with serum calcium levels resulting in calcium levels lower than true values.

If you must have laboratory testing 24-48 hours after your MRI, please notify your physician that you have received MRI contrast (gadolinium). Please feel free to bring up questions or concerns to the technologist or the physician.



After the test

Generally, you will be able to resume normal activity immediately after the procedure. The results of the MRI should be available to your physician 5 business days after your test is completed.



If you have any additional questions

Please feel free to ask any member of our staff regarding your MRI. Generally, your ordering physician's medical support staff is your best resource following an MRI scan.




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