

## **What is Magnetic Resonance Imaging?**

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is one of the safest and most comfortable imaging devices available. MRI is a non-invasive technique that uses magnetic fields and radio waves to produce images of the body without using x-rays.

MRI provides a unique way to view inside the human body. The level of detail obtained is extraordinary when compared with most other imaging modalities. Magnetic Resonance is able to aid in the diagnosis of many types of injuries and conditions by providing information specific to the area in question.

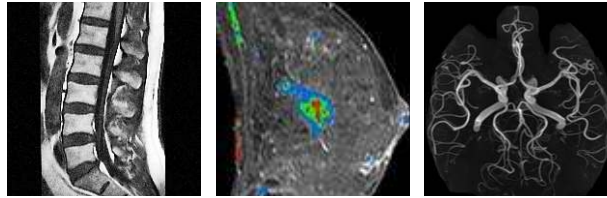
## **Is MRI Safe?**

Yes. MRI is extremely safe and poses no risks to properly screened patients (see contraindications below). MRI utilizes a powerful magnetic field and extreme care must be taken to prevent potential incidents from occurring. Some patients with implanted devices may not be viable candidates for undergoing an exam.

### **Contraindications for MRI:**

- Pacemaker
- Cerebral aneurysm clips
- Certain heart valves
- Medication Pumps
- Cochlear implants

Certain exams require the use of contrast material called gadolinium which is injected into the patient's vein and rapidly travels through the body. Certain organs, tissues, and disease processes absorb the injected contrast material causing them to "enhance" for better visualization by the radiologist. Gadolinium rarely causes allergic reaction.



## **How Should I Prepare for My Exam?**

- All patients will be required to fill out a patient screening questionnaire to aid in identifying patients with certain contraindications (listed previously).

Patients should remove the following items prior to entering the MRI suite:

- Wallet or purse (credit cards or any items with a magnetic strip)
- Metal jewelry or watches
- Clothing containing metal (zippers, buttons, snaps, hooks)
- Hearing Aids
- Pens, paper clips, keys, and coins
- Hairpins, hair-clips, or safety pins
- Electronic Devices (cell phone & pagers)

If you are a woman who is pregnant, suspect you may be pregnant, or are currently breast feeding, please be sure to inform our scheduling personnel at the time of making your appointment.

## **What are the Benefits of MRI ?**

- The exam is safe, painless, non-invasive and accurate
- Images of soft-tissue organs (liver, kidneys, pancreas and heart) are more detailed and better visualized on MRI.
- MR Angiography provides detailed images of blood vessels – often times without the need for contrast material.
- MRI can detect abnormal tissue that may be hidden by bone tissue.
- MRI can aid your physician in evaluating the structure and function of many organs.
- May eliminate the need for future invasive testing
- Cost-effective

## **What Can I Expect During My Exam?**

Upon arriving at the MRI suite, you will be asked a series of pre-screening questions by the technologist performing the exam. The technologist will also ask you to remove all clothing or jewelry containing metal that may degrade the images obtained from the procedure.

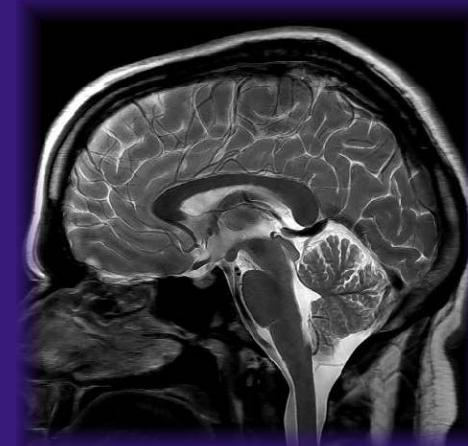
After the pre-screening is completed, the technologists will provide you with a pair of ear plugs and position you on a cushioned table where you will be gently placed inside a large, hollow magnet with openings on both ends. Once you have entered the system, you will begin to hear a series of pings and knocks which will be greatly reduced by the ear plugs provided. Do not panic, the noise you will hear is normal and is merely the system at work. While undergoing your exam you may breathe normally, but it is imperative that you remain still to avoid any movement. The technologist monitoring you during your exam is always available via intercom should you need assistance.

## **How Will I Feel After My Exam ?**

You should feel fine as the exam is painless. Some exams require intravenous contrast dye and patients may feel a warming sensation from the injected contrast media. You should not be alarmed as this is quite normal.



# Magnetic Resonance Imaging



## Patient Information



Medical Imaging Excellence — Comprehensive Care

### Is MRI Covered by Insurance?

Yes. Most insurance companies cover MRI studies for a multitude of indications. Please contact your insurance provider for verification of coverage.

For additional information or questions regarding our MRI systems, please feel free to contact our scheduling department at (949) 760-3025.

### What Are Some Common Uses of MRI?

MRI provides extremely clear pictures of soft-tissue structures near and around bones and is the most sensitive exam for spinal and joint related problems. MRI is also widely used to diagnose many sports-related injuries, especially those affecting the knee, shoulder, hip, elbow, and wrist. The images obtained from MRI allow physicians to see very small tears and injuries to ligaments and muscles.

MRI also produces better images of other soft-tissue organs such as the brain, heart and liver. These areas are able to be examined in high detail and allow physicians the ability to evaluate and distinguish healthy tissue from diseased tissue. MRI has also proven to be highly sensitive for many indications in breast imaging and is being widely used as an extension of traditional mammography. Because there is no radiation exposure involved, MRI is often the preferred diagnostic tool for examining the male and female reproductive systems, bladder, pelvis and hips.

### Facts About Newport Diagnostic Center:

- Established in 1991
- Highly respected board certified and fellowship trained interpreting physicians
- First outpatient PET center on the Pacific Coast and the first in Orange County to perform whole-body oncology studies (1991)
- First center in Orange County to offer Dedicated PET/CT (2002)
- Offers and utilizes the latest technology for superior patient treatment and care

#### **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)**

- MR Angiography
- Perfusion/Diffusion for acute stroke imaging
- MR Cardiac Imaging
- MR Spectroscopy
- MRCP

#### **Computed Tomography (CT)**

- Calcium Scoring
- Virtual Colonoscopy
- CT Angiography
- Cardiac and Coronary Artery Imaging

#### **Nuclear Medicine**

- PET/CT
- SPECT/CT
- Tumor Localization
- Thyroid and Parathyroid Evaluation
- Myocardial Perfusion and Viability
- Bone Imaging

#### **Women's Center**

- Breast MRI
- MRI Guided Breast Biopsies
- Stereotactic Breast Biopsies
- Digital Mammography
- Bone Densitometry (DEXA)
- Complete Ultrasound Capabilities

#### **Radiology**

- Myelogram
- Arthrogram
- Fluoroscopy
- Digital X-Ray

#### **Cardiology**

- Echocardiogram
- Treadmill Stress Test
- Holter Monitor
- Nuclear Cardiology

#### **CyberKnife – Stereotactic Radiosurgery**

- Treatment of Malignant Tumors
- Treatment of Benign Tumors
- Functional Disorders (Trigeminal Neuralgia)
- Vascular Malformations
- Ability to Treat in the Brain and Spine

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