

MRI FAQ

What is an MRI?

MRI is Magnetic Resonance Imaging. MRI is a diagnostic imaging that uses a strong magnet and radiofrequency waves to obtain images of organs and tissues of the human body. MRI is an outstanding imaging tool to determine pathology within brain tissue, abdomen, pelvis, spinal cord and vertebral discs, muscle, cartilage, ligament, orthopedic joints. It is the best imaging option for evaluation of the tumors or any neurological abnormalities.

What is MRA?

MRA stands for Magnetic Resonance Angiography. MRA evaluates the arteries or veins within the body. It is non invasive procedure compare to conventional angiography. REDI Diagnostics Corp is proud to offer non contrast MRA services for patients with known renal insufficiency.

Does MRI use radiation?

There is no radiation associated with an MRI exam.

Can anyone have an MRI?

There are some contraindications for MRI.

Please alert your physician if you should have:

- Pacemaker.
- Implanted Metal Devices.
- Aneurysm Clips
- If you think you might be pregnant (We do not recommend to have MRI during first trimester).
- Possibility of any metal fragments in your body (especially your eyes).
- Previous gunshot wound
- Permanent eyeliner tattoo.

What is the difference between open and closed MRIs?

An open MRI is very low magnetic field strength, which allows for a larger gantry opening, but quality suffers by 30-40%.

REDI Diagnostics Corp offers the latest design of high field (1.5T) high field MRI with a very large gantry and short tunnel. The magnet looks like an open magnet at the same time you will be getting a quality of the high field MRI scanner.

How long does an MRI exam take?

The typical exam lasts between 20-30 minutes.

What is contrast/dye and will I need it?

Depending on the examination ordered by your referring physician and your diagnosis, certain examinations require the administration of contrast media. It is given intravenously in your arm or hand and highlights certain body parts.

Can I be allergic to the contrast/dye?

The contrast material used for an MRI is not the same that used for a CT exam. You should not experience any symptoms from the contrast.

What should I expect during my MRI exam?

You will be brought to a private dressing room with lockers and you will be asked to remove certain articles of clothing, jewelry and objects that might interfere with MRI exam. You will be given disposable gown. Your personal items will be locked in a locker. For the MRI exam, you will be positioned on a table and the body part that has to be evaluated will be placed at the middle of the scanner. Even though the technologist must leave the room, you will be able to communicate with them using an intercom. You also will be given a buzzer to hold in the event that you will need to speak somebody immediately. The magnet makes loud thumping noise as the images are being taken. You will be asked to hold still during the imaging process to prevent motion and blurred pictures. The best thing to do is to be as relaxed as possible.

Will I get claustrophobic?

Most patients have no problem at all; however, some patients might feel anxious during the exam. Our team of professionals is highly trained and has an experience of many years working with claustrophobic patients. Please remember, you will always be in contact with your technologist and who will be speaking with you throughout your entire exam. We also have staff members who will be able to stay with you inside the room and help you to complete the study.

Why is the scanner so loud?

The way an MRI works is by creating a super-powered electromagnet that resonates at specific frequencies.

The way a loudspeaker works is by applying an electric field to a coil in conjunction with a magnet that moves a cone (which produces the sound).

So in the case of an MRI, a byproduct of the really gigantic magnet used to analyze your internal organs is that at some frequencies the magnet is acting like the magnet in a loudspeaker, and the enclosure for the machine itself is acting like the speaker cone.