

Imaging Facts Sheet for Magnetic Resonance Imaging: Spine

What to expect during your MRI exam

When you arrive at the MRI Department you will be asked MRI safety questions to make sure you are safe to enter the MRI scan room.

STANDARD SAFETY QUESTIONS:

Dialysis or Renal Failure	Aneurysm Clip in brain
Heart Valve Replacement	History of Metal in Eyes, skin or body
IVC Filter (ex. Greenfield Filter)	Embolization Coil
Cochlear Implant or hearing aid	Diabetic
Transdermal Medication Patch	Claustrophobia/anxiety
Nerve Stimulation Device {TENS}	Implants or devices in the body
Pregnancy or Breast Feeding	Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD)
Cardiac Pacemaker or Wires	Breast Tissue Expanders

PREPARING FOR THE MRI SCAN:

Once it is determined that you are safe to enter the MRI scan room you will be asked to dress in hospital pajamas. You may be asked the MRI safety questions several times, please do not be concerned we are just making sure that you are safe. An MRI technologist will greet you and bring you to the scan room.

DURING THE SCAN:

For the scan itself you will be placed on the MRI equipment and table on your back and you will enter the scanner headfirst. You will be covered with a sheet or blanket to keep your privacy and keep you comfortable. During the time of the scan we ask that you refrain from moving so that all the images can be precisely acquired, some pictures we may not be able to repeat. Sometimes it is necessary to give you IV contrast during the exam so a technologist will put an IV line in you and inject contrast to enhance areas not easily seen without the contrast. If you have had surgery on your spine it is necessary to inject contrast to distinguish between scar tissue and the discs. You will be offered ear protection, because the scan does make loud sounds. For many exams we may offer you earphones so you may listen to music. You will also be given a call bell in case you need to alert the technologist.

Once the scan is over the technologist will remove the IV line, if one was inserted, and bring you to the dressing room where you may change into your own clothing.

EXAM TIME: Approximately 30 to 45 minutes

ALLERGIES: Please alert the technologist if you have allergies

KIDNEY FUNCTION: Contrast is okay to inject when you have normal kidney function

RESULTS:

Your physician will receive the report in the next 1-2 days following the date of the scan. If you need films or CD please let technologist before the exam.

If you have any questions about your scheduled exam, please call (860) 545-5300.

Thank you for choosing Hartford Hospital Imaging Center and giving us the opportunity to serve you.