

# Open MRI Your Extremity MRI Examination

Questions & Answers

## What is MR Imaging?

MRI is a way of looking inside the body without x-rays. The exam uses radio waves and a magnetic field to create images of the soft tissues of the body.

## How is the MRI performed?

You will be asked to lay on a table and the technologist will position you comfortably. The table will be slid sideways into the open magnet. Only the extremity being imaged will be in the magnetic opening. You will be asked to remain still during the examination.

## What do I need to do during the exam?

Nothing! Just lie on the exam table and relax. You will be free to sleep during the exam.

## What if I have more questions?

The MRI technologist will answer any questions you may have pertaining to your exam.

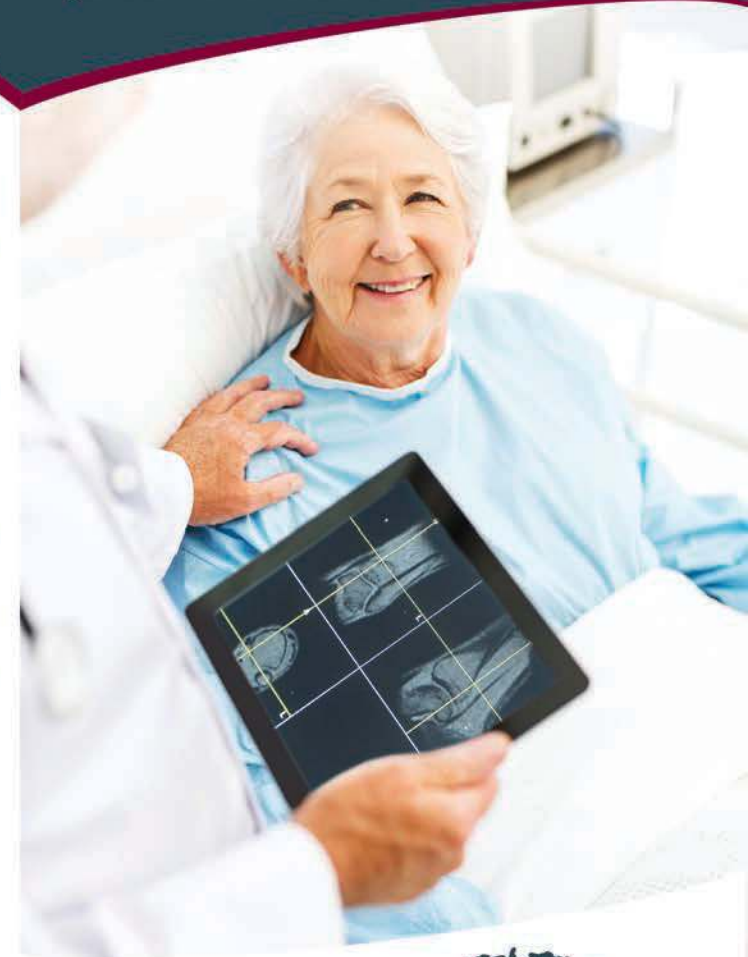


**Patient:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check-in Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Examination:** \_\_\_\_\_



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## MRI: A Simple Examination

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a safe way for your physician to look into your body. The pictures created during the exam look at the soft tissue and provide information that can improve the diagnosis. This brochure is provided to answer the questions most frequently asked by people scheduled for an extremity MRI examination.

## How long will the exam take?

The complete exam takes 45-60 minutes.

## How should I prepare for the MRI exam?

You can eat, drink, and take regularly-prescribed medications prior to the exam. Please wear clothing without metal snaps, buttons or zippers.

Please remove all jewelry before coming into the office for your exam. You will be asked to remove your watch, credit cards, keys, pocket knife, hearing aid, or any other metal objects before approaching the MRI. The magnet could affect the items of this type or the items could affect the magnet.

## What do MR images look like?

MRIs are made up of multiple slices through each plane of the body. MRI images show greater detail of soft tissue than CAT scans and x-rays, while still showing bone (see image of ankle below).

## Will I feel anything?

No. There is no pain or unusual sensation. The MRI will produce a mild tapping sound during the exam.

## How do I get the results?

The images will be provided to a radiologist and your provider for interpretation. At your follow-up, your provider will review the MRI results with you.



## Tell the doctor/tech if you have:

- Aneurysm clips
- Metal plate
- Metal pins
- Cardiac pacemaker
- Stent
- Joint replacements
- A possibility of pregnancy
- Prior injury to eyes with metal



**If you have a pacemaker, or think you are pregnant, please notify the technologist.**