



MRI – Lumbar Spine

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about your procedure: (319) 398-6050

701 10th Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-1292
319 398-6011

What is an MRI?

A Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan produces images by using a large magnet and radio waves. It is a way of looking inside the body without using X-Rays. Upon entering the MRI scanner, you will be surrounded by a strong magnetic field which you will not feel. During the scan you will hear loud knocking noises created by the magnet and radio frequencies. For your convenience the MRI Technologist will give you either ear plugs or head phones (to listen to music) which will reduce the effects of the noise. The magnetic field and radio frequencies will work together to create images of your anatomy. The MRI scan will take approximately 20-45 minutes, depending on what type of exam that is ordered.

Preparation:

If you have a pain relieving stimulator, please set the stimulator to “MRI Mode” or turn it off prior to entering the MRI scan room. When greeted by the MRI staff, please inform them that you have a stimulator.

If you are claustrophobic and require oral sedation prior to the MRI scan, please contact your physician and discuss the use of medication that can be taken for this exam. Be aware you must have someone drive you to and from the hospital if you take medications for claustrophobia.

If you wear a continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) device, for your safety, you will be required to remove it prior to entering the MRI scan room.

Patient’s that have any of the following **may be evaluated prior to the exam to determine if they will** be allowed to have an MRI exam.

1. Persons wearing or having an implanted pacemaker/defibrillator/stimulator
2. Persons who are pregnant
3. Persons who had a brain surgery and have aneurysm clips
4. Persons who have metal shrapnel in their eye(s)
5. Persons who have ear implants
6. Persons with any other implants

If you are scheduled for anesthesia assistance with your MRI exam, the anesthesia department will be contacting you a few days in advance of your appointment to go over your instructions.

Please check with your provider if you have questions.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:

- A photo ID to verify your identity
- Any implant information you may have received (if applicable)

Procedure:

For your convenience the MRI Technologist will give you either ear plugs or head phones (to listen to music) which will reduce the effects of the noise.

In certain cases, your doctor may recommend that you receive a special dye called contrast material. This may be something you are asked to drink before your MRI scan or something that is given intravenously in a vein in your arm. The contrast material will help provide a better picture of certain tissues of the body for diagnosis. If your exam is ordered with an intravenous (IV) contrast, it will be given half way through the exam.

It will be important to lie still throughout the entire exam as any motion may distort the images.

Mercy Hospital Parking:

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10th Street and 8th Avenue SE. Proceed to **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to "Radiology (X-Ray)," also located on **Ground (G)** level.

Procedure Results:

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to the provider who ordered your exam. Your provider will discuss the results with you. Results will typically be available for your provider within two business days of the exam. Results will also be sent to your MyChart account.