

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about your procedure: (319) 398-6050



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:

Because your procedure will require signing a consent to complete the exam, Mercy requests you do not take any narcotics, sedatives or antianxiety medications eight hours preceding your scheduled exam. You will need to arrive 15 minutes prior to your appointment to sign a consent form, after which you may take any oral sedation medication prescribed by your provider.

If you take narcotics, sedatives or antianxiety medications prior to signing the consent form, the exam may not be performed. Be aware that you must have someone to drive you to and from the hospital if you have taken narcotics, sedatives or antianxiety medications.

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

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 intraveneous (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.