



MRI Scan



What is a MRI Scan? A MRI is a diagnostic exam in which a strong magnet, radio waves, and a computer are used to make images or pictures of the inside of your body. The images are multi-dimensional and are not produced by x-rays. Any area of your body may be scanned. Thank you for trusting CGH for your medical imaging needs.

To Prepare:

Your exam will take approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour depending on the exam your doctor ordered. You will be asked to lay on your back for most procedures and to be as still as possible. **If you think this may be difficult or painful, please inform your physician prior to your appointment. If you are claustrophobic, inform your physician prior to scheduling your MRI scan. Please arrange for appropriate transportation home if you are taking medication for pain or claustrophobia.**

There are no dietary restrictions for a MRI, unless you are scheduled for a MRI of the abdominal area. If you are scheduled for a MRI of the abdominal area, please do not eat anything 4 hours prior to your exam.

Please inform us if you have any of the following:

- Cardiac pacemaker
- Cardiac stents
- Electronic implants such as an insulin pump
- Aneurysm clip in brain
- History of grinding or welding
- Eye prostheses
- Pregnancy

The MRI scanner has a weight limit of 350lbs. Please inform your doctor if this will inhibit you from having your exam done at CGH Medical Center.

What should I expect before and after the procedure?

- We will be completing an in depth patient screening immediately before your appointment.
- You will be asked to remove jewelry and to change into hospital scrubs.
- MRI makes a loud sound that changes in frequency and pattern, when imaging. Earplugs or a headset will be provided for your hearing protection and comfort.
- The area of anatomy being scanned will be oriented in the center of the MRI scanner.
- You may or may not receive an injection of a contrast agent to improve the diagnostic capability of the examination. This agent is injected into one of your veins. Most patients experience no unusual effects from this injection. If you do require an injection of contrast you will be required to have a blood test to determine if your kidneys are functioning properly. This may be done in your physician's office or at the hospital on arrival. If it is done on arrival, there will be a 30-45 minute wait for the results before the scan can begin.
- For most MRI's you can go on as normal with the rest of your day afterwards. **If you took medication for claustrophobia or pain, please have a ride home available.**

Pregnancy testing:

If you are a female between the ages of 12-55 and have not had a tubal or hysterectomy, you will be required to have a pregnancy test if receiving contrast.

Additional information:

Providing safe, quality patient care is our highest priority. To help ensure quality and safety, we ask that you do not bring young children that will need to be chaperoned, during your exam with you. Children are not allowed to accompany you during your MRI test. Staff is unable to care for your child in your absence. Your technologist will be happy to answer any specific questions you may have about your scheduled MRI scan. Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment for the in-depth patient screening. Please call the MRI department at 815-625-0400 x4427 if you have any questions.



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