

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

What is Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging or MRI is a new way to visualize the inside of the body. This new technology has no harmful biological effect.

What Is special about Magnetic Resonance?

This new Imaging technique does not use ionizing radiation like X-Rays or CT. It is painless, has no side effects and in 90% of the cases does not require injection of contrast agents. This technique gives additional informations to other diagnostic methods.

How does it work?

In the scanner you will be exposed to two natural phenomena: a magnetic field and Radio waves. Water molecules within your body will react to those two forces, by aligning themselves with the magnetic field as well as reemitting radio signals matching those emitted by the system. These signals are then processed into images with the use of a computer.

What should I do during the exam?

The only things we will ask you to do is to stay still and relax as we proceed with the examination.

Will I feel Something?

Not at all but you will hear lots of knocking noises when we do the images.

How long does it take?

The time of examination varies from 30 to 60 minutes according to the type of information your doctor needs.

Are there any special preparations prior to the exam?

Make sure you do not carry any metallic objects. Keep Bank and credit cards outside the examination room. Wearing some kind of jogging suit is recommended.

FOOD AND FLUIDS SHOULD BE RESTRICTED 3 HOURS PRIOR TO EXAM.

What must I remove?

You must remove all metallic objects, including:

- Glasses
- Coins
- Hair pins
- Pencils/pens
- Bank and credit cards
- Hearing aids
- Keys
- Watches
- Pocket knives
- Wallets

Who cannot have an MRI scan?

Any person who:

- has a cardiac pace-maker.

- has surgical clips on blood vessels, especially in the brain.
- has pieces of metal in their body, especially the eye and ear (from an accident, welding, military service, etc...)

Must I be alone?

The design of the equipment is such that it is not possible for someone to be by your side. In extreme conditions someone may be in the examination room for reassurance.

ANYONE STAYING IN THE SCAN ROOM MUST ALSO FOLLOW THE SAME PREPARATION AS THE PATIENT.

After the exam you will be able to attend normal activities without any problems.

What happens during the exam?

During the test you will be required to lie very still on a bed inside a large scanner. During the scanning procedure you will hear knocking sounds. With MR there is no radiation or radioactive material. If you are on medication, please take it as scheduled.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED WHEN THE HEAD IS BEING EXAMINED.

Why must I keep my appointment?

Due to the length of the procedure only a small number of patients can be examined each day. We make every effort to stay on schedule, but please bring a book or craft in case you must wait. We also ask that you arrive **30 minutes** earlier than your appointment time.

Cancellation procedures

CALL: 514-398-8510

It is important to cancel and rebook your scan if you are unable to keep your appointment. This allows us to use your time slot for another patient, and decrease the waiting time for all patients.

Whom should I call if I have any concerns?

If you have questions, please call your doctor who requested the exam.

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Additional Information

Information about MRI Clinic

Tel. (or extension): 88 – 8510 (398–8510)
Montreal Neurological Hospital, Room WB3
3801 University St., Montreal, Quebec, H3A 2B4

Information about InfoNEURO

Neuro-Patient Resource Centre
Montreal Neurological Hospital Room 354
Tel: (514) 398-5358
E-mail: infoeuro@muhc.mcgill.ca
Web site: <http://infoeuro.mcgill.ca/>

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