

### How long will my scan take?

Most MRI scans are performed within 30 minutes. However, some scans can take 60-90 minutes depending on the type of scan your doctor has requested.

### Will I need to get an injection?

If the radiologist determines that a contrast injection will provide necessary information, the technologist will place an IV in your arm prior to beginning the scan. At some point during the scan, the technologist will come into the MRI scan room and inject the contrast agent "Gadolinium" into the IV and then perform some additional images.

The contrast agent is safe with a very low incidence of adverse reactions. Most patients will feel nothing during or after the injection. You will be required to drink plenty of fluids for about 12 hours after the procedure.

If you are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, please inform the technologist before receiving any injection.

### What happens after my MRI scan?

There are no restrictions after having an MRI scan and you can carry on with your normal activities.

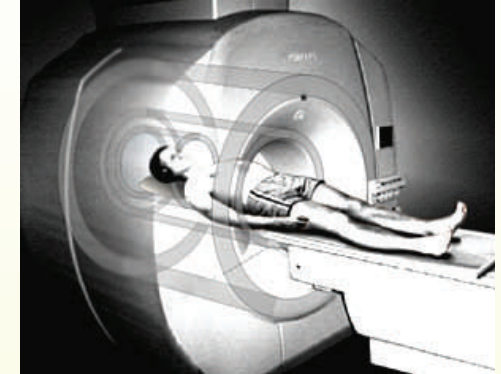
The images will be read by our radiologists who will then forward the results to your doctor.

If you have any questions, please contact the Diagnostic Imaging Department at St. Martha's Regional Hospital  
(902) 867-4500 ext.4216



# MRI

## *Patient Information*



*What you can expect during your MRI appointment at St. Martha's Regional Hospital*



## What is an MRI?

MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging and is a method of obtaining detailed images of organs and tissues throughout the body, without the use of X-rays. MRI uses a powerful magnet, radio waves and computers to produce images that will help your doctor determine if there is an injury or disease process present. MRI is widely used for imaging the soft tissue structures and organs in the body.

## Is there preparation for an MRI exam?

Most MRI scans do not require any preparation. However, if you are having a scan of your abdomen or pelvis you will be required to fast (no food or drink) for a period of eight hours prior to your scan.

## When should I arrive?

You must arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment. This allows time for you to complete any necessary paperwork, change your clothes and answer questions from the technologist about your medical history before the scan begins.



## Do I continue to take my medication?

You should continue to take your medication as you normally do unless otherwise instructed by your doctor.

## What happens before my MRI exam?

Before the MRI scan can begin, the technologist will complete a safety questionnaire with you that will involve answering a number of questions about past surgeries, injuries, body implants etc. Should you have any implanted devices or metal within your body, please tell the technologist. Certain medical conditions may prevent you from having an MRI. An exam may not be able to be performed if you have any of the following:

- Cardiac pacemaker or implanted defibrillator
- Aneurysm clips
- Certain cardiac valves
- Metal fragments in one or both eyes
- Any other implanted metal device
- If you think you may be pregnant

The technologist will then provide an explanation of the MRI scan and provide you with an opportunity to ask questions pertaining to the scan.

You will then be required to remove all metallic objects (watches, jewelry, hairclips, piercings, dentures) and change into a pair of hospital scrubs that will be provided to you. For convenience, we offer storage lockers in which you may keep your valuables during your exam.

## What happens during the scan?

The technologist will bring you into the MRI scan room where you will lay down on a padded table. Depending on the area being scanned, a small device called a "coil" may be placed around that area. The table will then move slowly into the MRI scanner, which is a tunnel-like space that is open at both ends and equipped with both a fan and a light. The technologist will have a full view of you during your scan and you will be provided with a call bell should you need to contact the technologist during the scan.

Throughout the scan, you will hear loud noises, ranging from buzzing to knocking and beeping. These noises are all normal and earplugs will be provided for you in order to minimize the noise level.



It is important to remain very still during the MRI exam, breath normally and follow any instructions provided by the technologist. Movement will cause blurring of the images.