

There is very little preparation required for an MRI scan. You can eat, drink and take your medications prior to the scan. The technologist will ask you to remove all metallic items, such as watches, jewelry, hairpins, eyeglasses and hearing aids. A locker will be provided for safekeeping of all your valuables.

***\*If you are having your liver scanned, you will be asked not to eat or drink up to six hours prior to your scan time.***

**Important Considerations:** *The following information will be asked on the day of the scan, and you will be asked to sign a form stating you are aware of the need to provide this information prior to the scan for your own safety.*

1. You should **NOT** have an MRI scan if you are, or suspect you may be, pregnant. It is very important to inform the doctor and the technologist prior to the scan.

2. If you have any of the following: aneurysm clips, artificial heart valve, bullets, cardiac pacemaker, eye/orbits prosthesis, hip or knee prosthesis, insulin pump implant, intracranial bypass graft clips, middle or inner ear prosthesis, shrapnel, sternal wire sutures, surgical mesh, transcutaneous electric nerve stimulation device, and/or a transdermal patch, ***you must inform your doctor. They must be reviewed by the technologist and radiologist prior to your scan,*** to be sure they are safe within the scanner.

3. If you have ever had an eye injury involving metal, or have been a metal worker, it is important that you inform the doctor of this. You may be required to have your eyes X-rayed before having the MRI scan.

**What Can I Expect During the MRI Scan?** (watch video <http://www.derryimaging.com/our-services/mri/>) Your scan is performed by a Radiologic Technologist under the supervision of a Radiologist. Upon arriving in the MRI department, you will be greeted by a receptionist and given a screening form. Once in the scan room you will be asked to lie down on a padded table. During the MRI scan, it is important to hold very still, as any movement will cause blurring of the pictures. During the entire examination, you will be able to speak to the technologist through an intercom. While the scanner is operating, you will hear a loud knocking noise and may feel a slight vibration which is normal.

Some MRI scans require the injection of a contrast agent called Gadolinium. This contrast agent is safe and unrelated to the iodine contrast agents used in many other X-ray procedures. It is commonly used to enhance the area being scanned, and therefore help the Radiologist diagnose the images. Gadolinium does not alter your behavior in any way and should not cause any discomfort when administered. If by chance you feel unusual during the injection, it is extremely important that you inform your technologist immediately. The technologist will cease the injection and have the Radiologist present to exam you and the injection site.

**How Long Will the MRI Scan Take?** Every MRI scan is different, and depending upon the patient and body part being imaged the scan time will vary. Most scans range from 30 to 45 minutes.

**What Will Happen Following My MRI Scan?** Once your scan is completed you may resume normal activities and diet.

**How Do I Find Out the Results of My MRI Scan?** Your MRI scan will be reviewed by a Radiologist. The Radiologist will send a report to your physician, who will give you the results of the scan.