



Breast Imaging Suite

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BREAST MRI

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) of the breast is a relatively new technique that is extremely helpful in evaluating breast abnormalities and identifying early breast cancer, especially in high-risk women (those who have had breast cancer or have a mother or sister with breast cancer).

This painless, radiation-free procedure uses magnets and a sophisticated computer to create detailed images of the breast. Its ability to detect and better determine the extent of breast cancer has assisted in surgical management so that breast conserving therapies can be considered

PREPARATION

There are no specific preparations or restrictions of foods prior to your MRI. You should, however, avoid coffee and other caffeinated beverages since you will be required to lie still for the exam.

Wear an outfit that makes it easy to undress above the waist, such as a two-piece outfit. Avoid clothing with metallic objects such as zippers, snaps and grommets as metal may interfere with the imaging process. If you must wear clothing with metal, hospital gowns will be provided.

Please inform your physician if you are allergic to any medications, are diabetic, have renal disease or if you think you may be pregnant.

THE PROCEDURE

The technologist will bring you to the consultation or procedure room. A series of screening questions will be asked and the procedure explained to you. An intravenous (IV) line may be placed through which contrast medium will be given. If a biopsy is scheduled, you will be asked to sign a consent form.

In the MRI suite, you will lie on your stomach on a cushioned specialized table. Your breasts hang down into a depression in the table, which contains the imaging coil. Once you are comfortably positioned, the table will move into the magnet. From the control area, the technologist will stay in constant contact with you, both visually and through an intercom.

The study usually takes 45 minutes to an hour but typically longer if a biopsy is scheduled.

AFTER THE EXAM

The radiologist, a physician specially trained in interpreting breast MRI, will analyze your exam and provide your doctor with a detailed report. Your physician will then discuss the results with you as it pertains to your health.

Note: Any woman who is pregnant, or thinks she might be, should let her doctor know before proceeding with the exam.