

## The reasons for a MRI scan.

MRI exams are performed when people are ill or injured, or when a doctor suspects a medical problem that cannot be easily detected with a routine physical examination. They are non-invasive, meaning that no surgical procedures are required to view your body systems. MRI is also used to obtain specific diagnostic information that hasn't been provided by other imaging technologies such as ultrasound, traditional X-ray and computed tomography (CT). If you have any questions concerning your exam, please talk to your physician or the MRI technologist.

In the case of breast imaging, MRI does not replace mammography or breast ultrasound imaging, but is used as a supplemental tool. Breast MRI may be used by your physician to access the integrity of breast implants, aid the diagnosis of breast conditions, guide breast biopsy procedures, and/or monitor response to therapy.

## What you should know about MRI scans.

MRI exams are among the most advanced medical imaging procedures. This brochure will answer many of your questions and assist you, or your loved one, to better prepare for your upcoming MRI exam. Our goal is to provide the best possible medical care for you and your family. Your physician will be able to provide specific details about your exam and answer any questions

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MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING

# knowledge

Know the facts about  
breast magnetic resonance imaging



# Know

## the facts about breast MRI

### What is a MRI exam?

MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging, a non-invasive diagnostic procedure that uses magnetic fields and radio frequencies to generate detailed anatomical and functional images.

MRI scans have an advantage over some forms of scanning because they can image different types of organ tissue without ionizing radiation. More traditional forms of imaging, such as X-rays, are limited in how much tissue they can image.

### What can you expect?

A technologist will escort you into the MRI scanning room, where you'll see a table and a large, donut-shaped device called a gantry. The technologist will have you lie on the padded table and make sure you are comfortable, you'll be asked to lie very still during the scan and hold your breath for a short time to minimize any body movement. During the scan, you will hear a humming or buzzing noise. You will be given headphones to wear to protect your ears from hearing loss. You will feel the table move while images are being taken at certain locations of your body. The technologist will monitor you during the entire exam through a window and will communicate with you through an intercom.

The specific details of your upcoming examination will be explained fully by an MRI technologist or your physician.

In the case of breast imaging, you will be positioned face down on a device – referred to as a “breast coil” — specifically designed to image the breast. The technologist will work with you to make sure that you're comfortable but also positioned to optimally image the breast tissue. Depending on the type of breast coil used, the technologist might make adjustments to limit movement of the breast during imaging. However, unlike mammography, MRI does not use vigorous compression.

### How long will your exam take?

Usually a scan takes about 30-40 minutes. It may take longer or less, depending on your specific exam.

### After your MRI exam.

The radiologist will carefully analyze your MRI images, review the findings with your physician, and provide a report. Your physician will then discuss the results with you.

### The safety of a MRI exam.

MRI does not use ionizing radiation like an X-ray. As with many other medical imaging technologies, MRI scanners have been cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. If you have any implants, pacemakers or metal objects in your body, be sure to consult with your technologist prior to the exam. Additionally, please consult with your physician to understand the risks and benefits of MRI more completely.