



ARIZONA MEDICAL IMAGING

Preparing for an MRI Exam

Note: Unless your physician has specified otherwise, there is no special diet or fasting required before an MRI.

1. Ask your physician to send related or previous films to the MRI Center at least three days before your exam. Or, you can hand carry them to your appointment. Previous films are critical pieces of comparative data for the radiologist.
2. Select your favorite CD to listen to during the exam. During your MRI you can listen to the music you want to hear. You simply provide it to the technician when you arrive. If you wish, you can select a CD from AMI's CD library on the day of the exam.
3. Arrive 15 minutes prior to your appointment so you have time to register. Please inform the receptionist if you have an appointment with your physician immediately following the MRI exam and if your physician has asked you to take the test results to that appointment. If that is the case, you will be asked to wait approximately 1 hour after your exam, while the scans are filmed and processed. They will then be reviewed by a radiologist and faxed to your physician in time for your appointment.
4. Advise the technologist if you have any of the following:
 - Aneurysm clips, metal plates, or screws
 - Artificial cardiac valves
 - Bone or joint replacements
 - Metal fragments from welding work, or shrapnel
 - Pregnancy
 - Previous surgery (brain, eye, ear)
 - Cardiac pacemakers or implanted defibrillators

Although some of these objects are MRI-safe, most are not because of the magnet in the machine.

If you suspect that you have any metal fragments in your eyes, you will be sent to the hospital for a special orbital x-ray. If fragments are found, you will not be able to have an MRI.

5. Expect to be in the MRI for about 45 minutes. You may bring a friend or relative along, and he or she can accompany you into the MRI room.
6. Call your physician for the test results, approximately 3-5 working days following the MRI. Unless you have informed the receptionist of an appointment with another physician immediately following the MRI exam, your results are interpreted within 24 hours by one of AMI's board certified radiologists. Typically, the report is faxed or couriered directly to your physician immediately following the interpretation.

After your exam, you may resume regular activity immediately, unless otherwise instructed.