



Welcome to the OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Magnetic Resonance Department.

You have been scheduled to have a **MRI Scan**. This is a safe diagnostic test using magnets and radio waves to create images of the inside of your body without the use of radiation.

This information will help you understand the test that has been scheduled.

Thank you for trusting OSF for your medical imaging needs.

**What to Bring with You:**

You may have had x-rays or images done at a hospital other than OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center or OSF Center for Health- Rock Cut. Please bring copies of the pictures with you the day of the test. You may also request that the doctor's office send the pictures or results to OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center before your test.

Please bring any medical implant device cards &/or surgical reports with you.

**Preparation:**

If you need medication for pain or have claustrophobia (fear of enclosed spaces), please discuss your individual need with your physician prior to scheduling your MRI appointment. Arrange for appropriate transportation home following your exam if you are taking medication for claustrophobia or pain.

If you have claustrophobia, you may request to have your MRI scan done on either the larger MRI system at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center or the open MRI system at the Center for Health – Rock Cut. Jewelry and other accessories should be left at home if possible, or removed prior to the MRI scan. Because they can interfere with the magnetic field of the MRI unit, metal and electronic objects are not allowed in a MRI exam room. These items include but are not limited to:

- Jewelry, watches, credit cards and hearing aids, all of which can be damaged
- Pins, hairpins, metal zippers and similar metallic items

- Removable dental work
- Pens, pocket knives and eyeglasses
- Body piercings

In most cases, an MRI exam is safe for patients with metal implants, except for a few types. To avoid delay in scheduling and performing your MRI test a detailed surgical report about the implant is necessary. For your safety its important to have detailed information about what the implant is, where it is implanted, how long ago it was implanted, by whom and possibly the manufacturers name.

You should notify the MRI technologist of any shrapnel, bullets, or other pieces of metal that may be present in your body. Patients who might have metal fragments in their eyes may require an X-ray prior to the MRI. Tooth fillings and braces usually are not affected by the magnetic field but they may distort images of the facial area or brain.

You may wear loose-fitting comfortable clothing with no metal fasteners. You may be required to change into a hospital gown and remove all metal items prior to your exam.

**Pregnancy Testing:**

Pregnancy testing will now be performed on females receiving diagnostics between the ages of 10 and 55 if you have not had your tubes tied or a hysterectomy. Home pregnancy tests are not acceptable. If you know that you are pregnant, please notify your doctor.

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**Medications:**

Follow your physician's instructions.

**Allergies:**

You may receive IV contrast as part of this test. If you have any known allergy to MRI dye or gadolinium, please contact your ordering doctor.

**Test Instruction:**

Depending on the type of MRI test your physician ordered, your test will take approximately 45 to 90 minutes.

Before you enter the MRI exam room, you will be asked a series of questions and educated on the details of your exam. Please be patient during the screening process, even though you may have gone through the screening process before. All MRI systems are different requiring that similar questions be asked several times to assure your safety.

You may be required to change into a hospital gown and remove all metal items prior to your exam. The registered technologist will position you comfortably on the MRI table. You may be lying on your back or stomach depending on the area of the body your doctor has ordered. To obtain the best images possible, additional specialized pads and imaging devices may be used during your exam. The table will move into the center of the machine moving slightly as the exam progresses.

Even though the powerful magnet is always on, you will only hear a loud knocking and buzzing noise from the machine when the MRI is taking pictures.

You will be offered earplugs to minimize the noise, and for some exams music is available.

The technologist will be communicating to you throughout the exam and encouraging you to hold still.

Sometimes contrast is necessary for the test. If you need to have the IV contrast it will be given by the technologist through an IV in your arm. Additional pictures will be taken.

**After Test Instructions:**

For most MRI examinations, you may go on as normal for the rest of the day. However, if you required medication to help with pain or claustrophobia, make sure you do not operate a motor vehicle and have a ride home available. Limit activity, resuming normal activity only after the effects of the medication have worn off and as your physician or pharmacist instructed you to.

Please drink plenty of fluids if you received IV contrast.

**Test Results:**

Your test will be read by a radiologist (a doctor specializing in reading MRI exams) who will complete a report that will be sent to your ordering doctor. You may make plans with your ordering doctor to receive your test results.