

Breast MRI

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Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a painless way to look inside your body without using X-rays. MRI does not use radiation.

MRI uses a magnetic field and radio waves to make three-dimensional (3-D) images of your breasts on a computer.

The MRI exam takes about 45 minutes.

Who Should Consider an MRI

Your health care provider will tell you if a breast MRI is right for you.

In general, an MRI is useful for women who:

- are at a high risk for breast cancer because of family history (especially a first-degree relative who has not gone through menopause: mother, sister or daughter)
- are known to have the breast cancer gene
- have had breast cancer surgery
- need more tests to look for breast cancer
- need to check on the condition of silicone breast implant(s).

Your Appointment

Location: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____ a.m. / p.m.

Arrive at the Radiology Department
30 minutes before your exam.

Phone number: _____

If you need to cancel or reschedule,
call at least 24 hours before your scheduled
appointment.

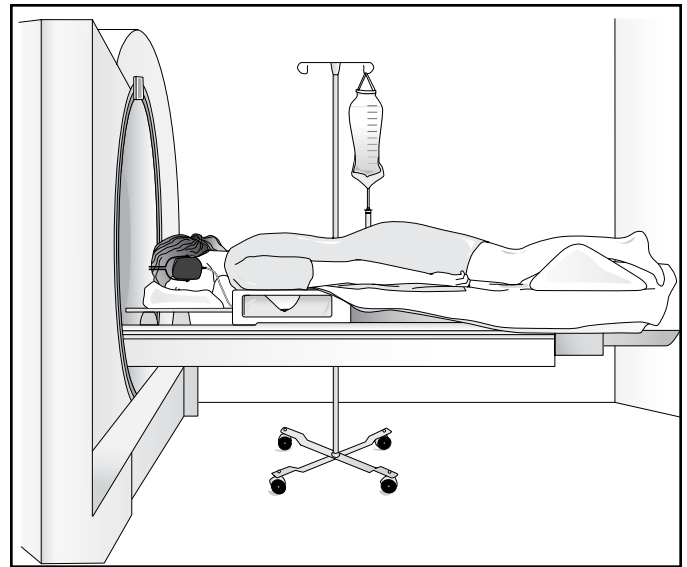
What to Tell Your Health Care Provider and Technologist

MRI is a safe exam. But there are certain things that can interfere with the exam. **Tell your health care provider and technologist if you:**

- are afraid of closed-in spaces (claustrophobia)
 - Your health care provider may prescribe a medicine that could make you feel comfortable during the exam.
 - Bring this medicine with you on the day of your exam. Ask the MRI staff when you may take it. **Do not take the medicine before you are told to do so.**

(over)

- have a pacemaker, defibrillator or a brain aneurysm clip
 - have any metal inside your body (including tissue expanders for breast reconstruction)
 - are breastfeeding, pregnant or think you may be pregnant
 - have kidney disease
 - have had a contrast reaction. If you have had a reaction:
 - you may need to take a special medicine 12 hours before the MRI to prevent a reaction
- or**
- your health care provider may choose a different exam.



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You will lie on your stomach on the exam table. The table will have an opening for your breasts.

Before the Exam

- Arrange to have someone bring you home from the exam if you have to take medicine for claustrophobia.
- You may eat or exercise before the exam.
- Bring your insurance card.
- Bring your device information card if you have a pacemaker, defibrillator or a brain aneurysm clip
- You may need to fill out several forms.
- You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and pants.
- You will need to remove any metal objects, such as jewelry, hairpins, glasses and dentures.

During the Exam

- You will have an intravenous (IV) line put in your arm or hand.
- You will lie on your stomach on the exam table. The table will have an opening for your breasts.

- Your arms will be at your sides.
- The table will be moved into a tube-like area. The MRI is open at both ends.
- You will need to lie still.
- A series of images will be taken.
- A contrast will be injected through the IV line and another series of images will be taken.
- The MRI machine will make loud knocking sounds. This is normal.
- You may have headphones on while in the MRI machine. There is a call button if you have questions or concerns.

After the Exam

- You may return to your normal activities
- The radiologist will give the results to your health care provider.
- If you have not heard from your health care provider within 3 to 5 days, call his or her office for the results.