



Medical Clinic of Houston, L.L.P.

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www.mchllp.com

"The Sunset Clinic" - Established in 1968

Basic Information about the Magnetic Resonance Imaging Scan

Appointment Date : _____ Appointment Time: _____

**PATIENTS WHO HAVE A CARDIAC PACEMAKER OR HEART DEFIBRILLATOR
CANNOT UNDERGO AN MRI PROCEDURE.**

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

You should inform the doctor or nurse prior to the scan if you are pregnant or think you may be. **YOU MUST INFORM THE DOCTOR AND/OR NURSE PRIOR TO THE SCAN IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING METAL IMPLANTS OR OBJECTS:** Aneurysm clips, artificial heart valves, bullets, cardiac pacemaker or defibrillator, eye/orbital prosthesis, insulin pump implant, middle or inner ear prosthesis, shrapnel, vascular stents, or a transcutaneous electric nerve stimulation device (tens unit). Please be prepared to provide your doctor or nurse with detailed information during your office visit including a copy of your implant card(s). Also, if you have ever been a metal worker, it is important that you inform the technologist of this previous to your scheduled appointment time, as you may be required to have your eyes X-rayed before having the MRI scan. You will be asked a series of questions in the screening process. The Clinic will require you to sign a form, which states your awareness of any complications that could occur.

WHAT IS MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a technique that allows doctors to see inside the human body in great detail without using X-rays. MRI uses a powerful magnet, radio waves and a computer system. This scan will provide your doctor with important information of certain types of body tissue (internal organs, joints, brain and spine) differently than an X-ray or a Computerized Tomography (CT) scan.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR MY MRI SCAN?

There is very little preparation required for a MRI scan. **If your study does not require IV contrast, you can eat, drink, and take your daily medications prior to the scan. Studies that are ordered with IV contrast require you to have nothing to eat or drink five hours prior to the procedure.** You are encouraged to use the restroom prior to the scan. You will be asked to remove all metallic items from your person, such as watches, jewelry, hairpins, eyeglasses, and hearing aids. Due to the magnetic properties of the MRI system, the information contained on the metallic strip on credit cards will be erased. Depending on the scan, you may be asked to change into a gown and a locker will be furnished for your belongings. It is best to come dressed casual and comfortable for your MRI. **If your doctor has ordered sedation for you to undergo this procedure, you must make transportation arrangements prior to the scan date. The scan will not be**

performed and will be rescheduled if you fail to make alternate driving arrangements. Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled time to complete the required screening forms.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING THE MRI SCAN?

An MRI Technologist will perform the scan and the images will be interpreted by a radiologist (a doctor who specializes in the reading of X-rays and other imaging modalities). During the MRI scan, it is important to hold very still, as movement will cause blurring of the pictures. During the entire examination, you will be able to speak to the technologist by an intercom. The technologist will talk with you frequently during your scan, explaining the procedure each step of the way. When the scanner is operating, you will hear a loud thumping noise and may feel a slight vibration, which is normal. While the machine is thumping, it is very important to hold still since this is the time the scanner is actually taking the pictures.

HOW LONG WILL THE MRI EXAM TAKE?

Every MRI scan is different, but most scans take approximately 30 – 45 minutes. Keep in mind that you should plan to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled time to complete the required screening forms.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN FOLLOWING MY EXAM?

Once your scan is completed you may resume normal activities.

HOW DO I FIND OUT THE RESULTS OF MY MRI SCAN?

A radiologist will read your MRI scan and a report of the findings will be sent to your physician, who will review the results of the scan. All communication regarding the results of the scan should be directed to your physician.

PLAN TO ARRIVE AT LEAST 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO YOUR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT TIME FOR SCREENING PURPOSES.

PLEASE CALL US IF YOU ARE RUNNING LATE FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT. 713-526-5511 - EXTENSION 4500