



Pain Specialists
Neurology Specialists
Clinical Trials of SC

MRI Information and Instruction Letter

What is MRI?

MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging, a non-invasive, painless, diagnostic procedure that uses a permanent, super-conducting magnet that cannot be immediately “shut-off”. You will not see or feel anything (some patients fall asleep during their MRI scan). All that is required of you is to be as still as possible during the exam. The procedure typically will last around 30 minutes, depending on the type of information required by your physician.

What is the purpose of a MRI?

An MRI provides detailed images for detecting diseases. It provides two/three-dimensional images by using a large magnet, radio waves, and a computer. MRI does not use x-rays and is absolutely painless. It is effective in early detection and treatment of diseases.

What happens during the exam?

A technologist will position you on the examination table. You will be given earplugs to help reduce the noise. You will then be moved into the scanner. As the equipment scans, you will hear very loud knocking, peculiar noises. This means that the scanner is doing its job.

What happens after the exam?

After the exam, the radiologist (a physician who specializes in Medical Imaging) will provide your physician with an interpretation of the results of your MRI scan. Your physician can then explain the findings.

Preparation for the exam

To ensure your safety, you will be asked questions regarding your medical history. You will be asked to leave coins, jewelry, watches, glasses, credit cards, keys, hairpins, and other metal objects in a locker due to the magnetic field. Some items are allowed inside the scan room. Exceptions to these are pacemakers/defibrillators, which are never allowed near the MRI unit. If there are any questions concerning metal in your body, you can contact the MRI department prior to your scan and review your concerns with the staff.

If you are claustrophobic, talk to your doctor about this. Your physician may want to order a sedative for you to take before your MRI. If you will need sedation prior to your MRI, you must have a driver and you may not drive for 12 hours after taking your sedative. Continue to take any medications prescribed by

your doctor unless otherwise directed. In certain instances, a contrast agent may be administered by injection to allow the images to be more distinct.

Have you had an allergic reaction to MRI dye or CT dye?

You may need to pre-medicate prior to your MRI if you will be receiving MRI contrast.

MRI Risks

You MAY NOT be able to have the MRI if you have:

- A pacemaker
- Brain aneurysm clips/coils, intracranial clips
- A cochlear implant
- Metal in eyes, head or skin
- Are greater than 300 lbs.
- Insulin pumps, pain pumps, neurostimulators, implantable pumps
- A penile implant