

WHAT IS AN MRI USED FOR?

MRI has been useful in diagnosing the following disorders:

- Disorders of the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord)
- Disorders of the joints (knees, hips, shoulders, jaw, wrists, ankles and feet)
- Disorders of the abdominal and pelvic organs (pancreas, liver, adrenal glands and reproductive organs)
- Disorders of the heart and circulatory system

HOW LONG DOES THE EXAM TAKE?

In general, most exams take between 45 minutes and 1 hour. It is not unusual for an examination to take as long as 2 hours.

Mr. Ms. Mrs.

_____ has an appointment

- Monday Tuesday Wednesday
 Thursday Friday Saturday

Date _____ at _____ AM/PM



Saint Joseph Medical Center

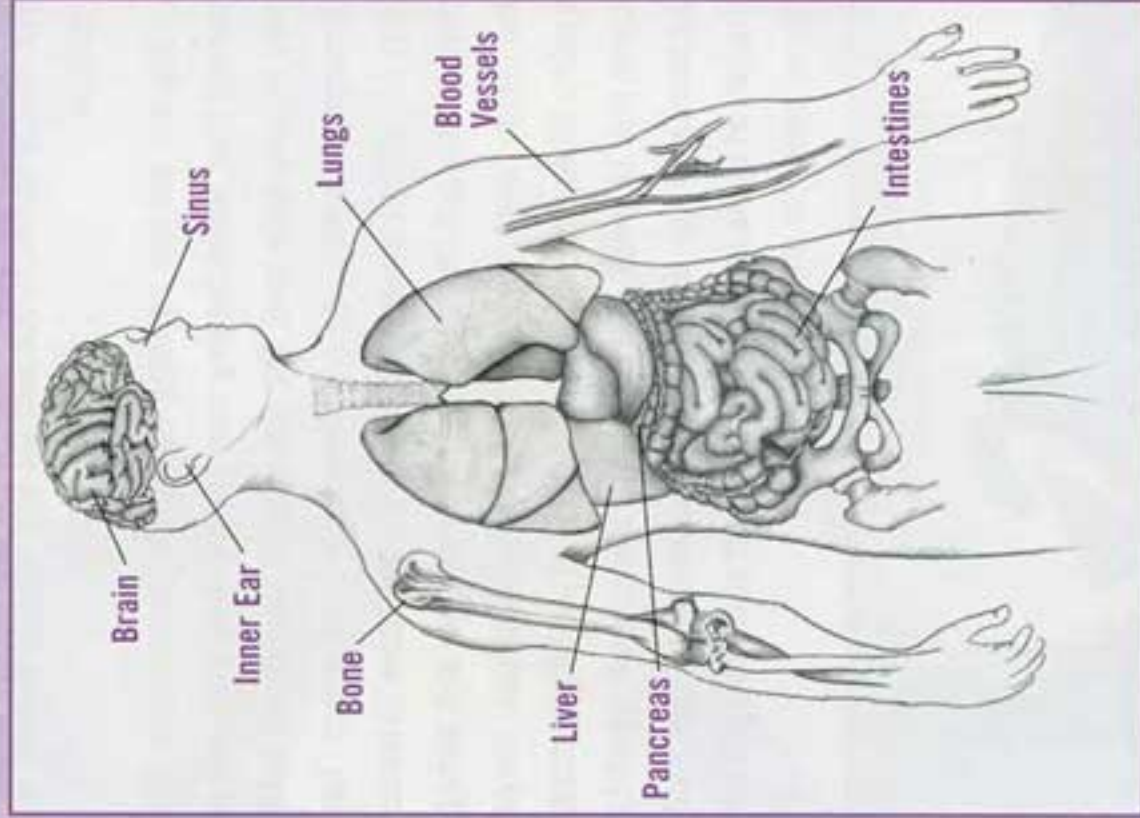
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POTENTIAL SITES OF AN MRI

- BRAIN • JAW JOINT • SPINE**
- KNEES AND OTHER EXTREMITIES**
- CHEST, ABDOMEN AND PELVIS**
- CIRCULATORY SYSTEM**

(MRA - Magnetic Resonance Angiography is a new study which evaluates blood flow and identifies blockages within the arteries and blood vessels.)



POTENTIAL SITES OF AN MRI

MRI

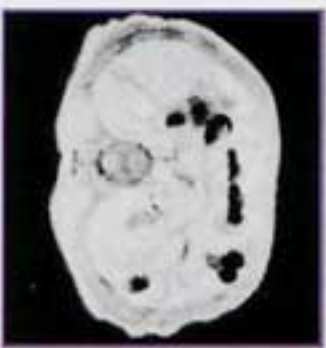
MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING

What you need to know...



Saint Joseph Medical Center

WHAT IS AN MRI?



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a procedure which gathers information about your body, and through the use of a computer, transmits it as a permanent record for your

healthcare provider to see without involving x-rays.

It is essential that we know about all metallic devices that may be present inside your body. They include: pacemakers and/or pacer wires, embedded shrapnel, aneurysm clips, cochlear stimulating devices, coronary stents, surgical implants or prosthetic devices, defibrillator, dentures, braces, nitro patch, neuro bio stimulator, and artificial valves surgically affixed to your heart, or if you have ever worked around metal.

You will also be asked to remove all loose or foreign metal objects such as jewelry, watches, dentures, credit cards, and hairpins.

You may also be asked to remove make-up if your eyes are being examined. Your hair should be free of wet styling gel and if you are pregnant, MRI is generally not recommended.

DURING THE EXAM



After changing into a gown, you will be asked to lie on the examination table that moves inside a large tunnel-like magnetic housing. Your registered technologists will position a receiver coil (device that delivers a radio frequency pulse) near the site to be examined and occasionally another device to monitor your breathing or heart rate. You will be under constant observation throughout the examination and able to communicate with the technologist through an intercom.

You will not feel anything during the examination, but you will hear noises ranging from grating to tapping, which may become quite loud. The technologist will explain each scanning sequence and prepare you for these noises. You may use either earplugs or headphones and listen to music during the exam. You must remain completely still during the exam, since even slight movements reduce image quality. When appropriate, an injection of an MRI contrast agent may be given. The injection of the contrast agent is administered by an MRI staff technologist. The mild discomfort of the injection is similar to that of having blood drawn from your arm.



PREPARING FOR YOUR MRI

For most MRI examinations, no preparation is necessary. Please read the information below to determine if your test requires any special preparation.



Adult - Abdomen, Pelvic, Liver - No food or drink 3-4 hours prior to exam.

Adult - Chest and Heart - No coffee, tea or stimulants at least 5 hours prior to exam.

Children - Under 2 years of age - General anesthesia is common for children. They may have clear liquids for 2 hours then nothing for 4 hours prior to study. They should also be sleep deprived, and arrive 30 minutes early.

Children - Over 2 years of age - Oral or IV sedation may occur. They should not have anything to eat or drink 4 hours prior to exam. They should also be sleep deprived and arrive 1 hour early for exam.

NOTE: All children should wear clothing without snaps, buttons, or zippers - elastic only.

