

Patient's Name _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

What Is MRI?

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) uses a very strong magnet and radio waves to produce images of the body, allowing the doctor to visualize bones, tendons, ligaments, and soft tissues. When appropriate, we inject a special contrast called gadolinium to add valuable information to your examination.

Why Is an MRI Examination Beneficial?

Depending upon the specific type of MRI procedure performed, the doctor will be able to visualize the inside of your ligaments and tendons, revealing partial as well as large muscle tears, sprains, and strains. MRI shows us the inner portions of bone and can reveal tumors or bone bruises, as well as cartilage tears. MRI can also reveal improper blood flow, aneurysms, strokes, tumors, and certain other disorders of the brain. Spinal cord abnormalities and other sources of back pain can also be seen. MRI is one of the most advanced medical imaging methods and is rapidly moving forward in its application and research.

How Do I Prepare for an MRI Examination?

In most instances no special preparation is necessary. There are no food or drink restrictions unless your doctor orders certain rare examinations of your abdomen, and you should continue to take any medications prescribed by your doctor unless otherwise directed. You may not be allowed to wear street clothes or anything metallic, like jewelry, during the examination. The MRI scanner will make a loud "knocking" noise, so hearing protection such as earplugs or headphones will be supplied to you by the center. Examination times commonly range from 20 to 60 minutes and it is important to lie still during the entire examination because movement degrades the quality of the images. Patients who experience severe pain associated with their medical conditions should plan for this, timing their pain medications to achieve optimal pain relief during the time of the examination. We will monitor you throughout the procedure. You can easily communicate with us at any time during the test. Please let us know promptly about any discomfort or distress.

What Are the Risks?

For most people, MRI is one of the safest medical imaging examinations because it involves no harmful radiation. MRI is not painful and there are no known harmful effects to the body. Patients who may be pregnant should always advise their physician and the technologist before the appointment so they can exercise additional caution. Patients with claustrophobia often find MRI examinations unpleasant because of the confining feeling of the equipment. In some cases your doctor may prescribe a sedative to ease this discomfort, or may recommend examination in a less confining MRI system.

The MRI scanner produces a very powerful magnetic field that will attract certain metallic objects that contain even small amounts of iron. The force of this attraction can cause metallic objects to move suddenly and with great force towards the center of the MRI scanner, posing a risk to the patient or anyone in the way of the object. Great care is taken to prevent metallic objects from entering the MRI room, so it is vital that you remove all metallic objects before your examination. Some patients cannot safely undergo MRI examination because of metal in their bodies. Examples of devices or foreign objects that may create a health hazard or other problem during an MRI exam include: pacemaker, implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD), neurostimulator, aneurysm clip, metal implant, implanted drug infusion device, or other implants that utilize magnets. Foreign metal objects, especially if in or near the eye, bullets, or shrapnel may also pose a risk and require evaluation. MRI scanners have been known to alter the delivery rate of medication patches, so they must be removed during the examination. Check with the technologist if you have questions or concerns about any implanted object or health condition that could affect the MRI procedure. This is particularly important if you have undergone surgery involving the brain, ear, eye, heart, or blood vessels.

CONTINUED ON BACK

What Are the Alternatives?

In most instances MRI provides a more detailed image of the body than other types of scans. In some cases, depending on individual factors such as your symptoms and the specific condition being investigated, there may be alternatives to having an MRI scan. These include: x-ray, Computed Tomography (CT) scan, Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine Scan.

What is Gadolinium?

As part of your scheduled MRI examination, you will receive an intravenous injection of gadolinium, a contrast injection that will provide additional diagnostic information for your physician.

Unlike contrast agents used in x-ray studies, MRI contrast agents do not contain iodine and therefore only rarely cause allergic reactions or other problems. If you have a history of kidney failure and are scheduled to undergo a procedure which requires gadolinium, you may be at risk for a rare condition known as Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis or Nephrogenic Fibrosing Dermopathy (NSF/NFD). NSF/NFD may result in damage to body organs and possible death.

After being administered, GBCAs are mostly eliminated from the body through the kidneys, but trace amounts of gadolinium may stay in the body, including brain, for months to years after receiving these drugs. Patients who may be at higher risk for gadolinium retention include those requiring multiple lifetime doses, pregnant women, children and patients with inflammatory conditions. To date, the only known adverse health effect related to gadolinium retention is a rare condition called nephrogenic systemic fibrosis that occurs in a small subgroup of patients with pre-existing kidney failure. The FDA has received reports of adverse events involving multiple organ systems in patients with normal kidney function, but a causal association between these adverse events and gadolinium retention could not be established. Although gadolinium retention has not been directly linked to adverse health effects in patients with normal kidney function, repeated MRI exams using GBCAs, particularly closely spaced MRI exams, should be minimized if possible.

Although gadolinium has been found to be a very safe contrast agent, there is always the risk of a reaction. These reactions can range from minor ones such as nausea, warmth at the injection site, headache, dizziness, itching, flushing, and hives to more severe reactions such as cardiac arrhythmias, shortness of breath, wheezing, convulsions, unresponsiveness, or even death. These life-threatening reactions are exceedingly rare, occurring in only 0.01% - 0.001% of cases. The medical personnel in charge of your exam are prepared and trained to respond to these types of reactions. At Roswell Open MRI Imaging we have chosen a contrast agent called Dotarem. This agent has a more stable chemical bond and is considered one of the safer options for Gadolinium contrast available.

What are the Alternatives to Gadolinium?

Alternatives to using intravenous contrast are available. These procedures may be able to provide the necessary diagnostic information. Please ask to speak with the technologist or supervising physician should you have any questions regarding an alternative imaging procedure.

By signing this you agree that you have read this form and/or I have received oral communications of all the information provided in this form. You understand the information, and have had any questions answered regarding this procedure and who will read the exam. In addition, you agree that you 1) have been explained the purpose of the procedure; 2) have been informed of how long the procedure will take; 3) understand the risks, benefits, and complications associated with the procedure; 4) have truthfully informed Roswell Open MRI of my current medical condition and have complied with any requirements for having this procedure that have been communicated to me; 5) are aware of possible alternatives; 6) have been given the right to refuse to consent to the procedure; and 7) have read and reviewed the attached MRI contrast media medication guide.

I have not been pressured to sign this consent and do so voluntarily. I understand that I may contact Roswell Open MRI at the address and phone number provided if I have any further questions about this form or the procedure. I am at least 18 years of age, of sound mind and not under the influence of alcohol or hallucinogenic drugs. I have no reservations and give my consent to start and complete the exam(s) by my signature and date here.

Patient's and/or Appropriate Agent's Signature

Date