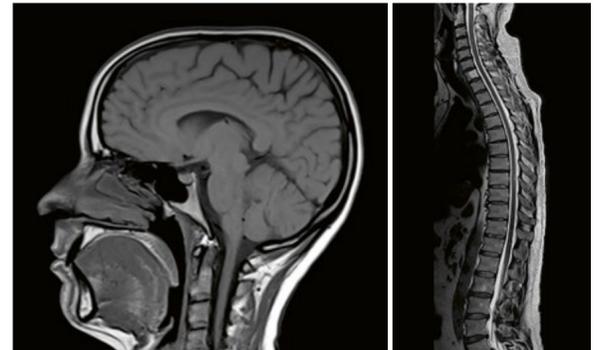


Your MRI examination explained simply



Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a technique used in radiology to examine internal structures. Unlike other imaging methods that use ionizing radiation, such as CT, MRI uses a magnetic field and radio waves to generate detailed images. Because an MRI does not expose patients to ionizing radiation, it is generally considered a very safe diagnostic procedure. However, to ensure there is no potentially hidden harm, you will need to answer a questionnaire with specific questions, and the staff will review this form with you before the exam.



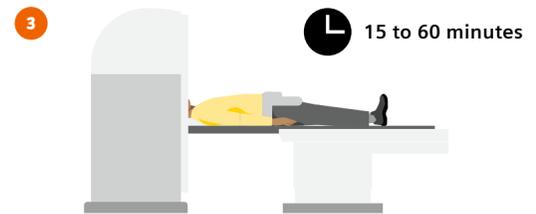
What does an MRI exam entail?



Please answer all questions in the provided questionnaire. This is important for exam planning and to ensure your safety. If the examination requires contrast agents to better assess specific structures in your body, an intravenous access will be needed.

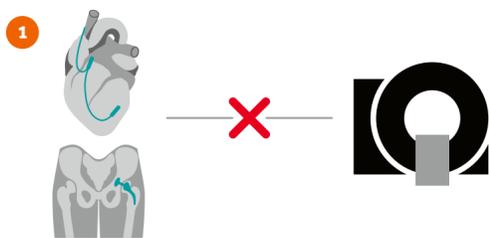


For the best possible image quality, a coil will be placed over the part of your body that needs to be examined. This coil acts as an antenna to pick up signals from your body. After some preparation, including noise protection, you will be slowly moved into the MRI tunnel.

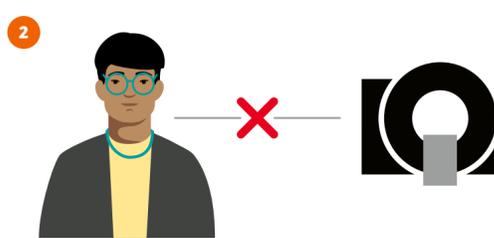


The MRI exam lasts about 15 to 60 minutes depending on the organ or structure being examined. You must stay still (unless told otherwise) to get the best image quality for diagnosis. For some exams, you might be asked to hold your breath several times for short periods.

What is important when having an MRI exam?

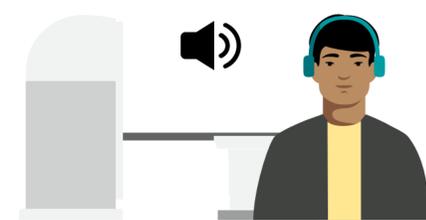


Metal objects can interact with the MRI components, including the strong magnetic field. Therefore, it is important to inform staff if you have any metal objects inside or on your body that cannot be removed, such as implants, pacemakers, or stents. Also, mention any tattoos, permanent makeup, or other similar markings.



You must remove any metal objects from your body before the exam, including piercings, jewelry, eyeglasses, hearing aids, phones, or underwire bras. You might also be asked to remove all clothing and will then be given specific gowns or scrubs. Many fabrics today contain antibacterial metallic fibers that aren't listed on the label but could cause harm.

What does an MRI exam feel like?



You won't feel anything during the exam. You will receive earplugs or headphones to protect your hearing from the loud thumping noises of the MRI scanner. Lying inside a narrow tunnel can be an unusual experience, which is why we recommend closing your eyes. However, if a contrast agent is used, the area where it enters your body may feel warm or cold. Large or colored tattoos may also feel warm during the exam.

