NEUROLOGY GROUP of BERGEN COUNTY

MRI Patient Information Sheet

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) uses radiofrequency waves and a strong magnetic field to provide clear and detailed pictures of internal organs and tissues. Using highly specialized equipment, the MRI exam can be tailored to address the particular medical question being asked by you and your physician.

Before your exam:

You will most likely be required to complete an MRI screening form that your technologist will review prior to your exam. Most implanted devices are considered safe for MRI; however, there are a few devices that are not safe. If you have a pacemaker, defibrillator, shrapnel, or some types of cerebral aneurysm clips, you may not be eligible for the exam . Please alert your physician if you have any of these devices. Additionally, devices implanted during surgery, such as cardiac or carotid stents, must be in place for at least several weeks prior to your MRI exam. Please alert your physician if you have had any type of metal implanted into your body.
There are no fasting requirements for most MRI exams. You may eat, drink, and take your medications as prescribed. You should wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothing with no metal zippers, metal buttons, decals with glitter, etc. Patients who wear clothing with metal may be asked to change into a provided gown for the test.
Some MRI exams will require that you receive an injection of a contrast material. If you are above the age of 60 or have had kidney problems, it may be necessary to have blood drawn in the lab prior to the MRI to check your kidney function. **A previous history of kidney failure, dialysis, or liver transplant will prohibit you from receiving the contrast injection. Please inform your physician and technologist of this prior to the exam.**
If you are claustrophobic and require sedation, you will need to make arrangements with your physician for the medication prior to your exam date. If you will be sedated, you must have a driver with you to take you home.

Day of your exam:

During your exam, you will be positioned on a table that will travel into an open-ended tunnel where you remain for the duration of the exam. The machine will be very loud. Hearing protection can be provided for you. The MRI exam usually lasts between 30 and 60 minutes, depending on the type of exam you are receiving. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the radiology facility where you are going to have the test done.

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