

Musculoskeletal MR Scan

Appointment Information

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

About

A musculoskeletal MR scan is performed to examine abnormalities in the muscles. A muscle MR scan is a noninvasive and painless medical test.

Musculoskeletal MR imaging is usually the best choice for examining the:

- Body's major joints.
- Spine for disk disease.
- Soft tissues (muscles, tendons and ligaments). Musculoskeletal MR imaging is typically performed to diagnose or evaluate:
 - Degenerative joint disorders such as arthritis, meniscal tears (knee) or labral tears (shoulder and hip).
 - Fractures (in selected patients).
 - Joint abnormalities due to trauma (such as tears of Ligaments and tendons).
 - Spinal disk abnormalities (such as a herniated disk).
 - The integrity of the spinal cord after trauma.
 - Sports-related injuries and work-related disorders caused by repeated strain, vibration or forceful impact.
 - Infections (such as osteomyelitis).
 - Tumors (primary tumors and metastases) involving soft tissues around the joints and extremities (such as muscle, bones and joints).
 - Pain, swelling or bleeding in the tissues in and around the joints and extremities.

For your musculoskeletal MR scan, you will be positioned on the moveable examination table. Straps and bolsters may be used to help you stay still and maintain the correct position during imaging.

Devices that contain coils capable of sending and receiving radio waves may be placed around or adjacent to the area of the body being studied.

If a contrast material will be used in the MRI exam, an intravenous (IV) catheter, also known as an IV line will be inserted into a vein in your hand or arm, following the injection.

A saline solution may be used. The solution will drip through the IV to prevent blockage of the IV catheter until the contrast material is injected.

You will be moved into the magnet of the MRI unit and the radiologist and technologist will leave the room while the MRI examination is performed. If a contrast material is used during the examination, it will be injected into the intravenous line (IV) after an initial series of scans. Additional series of images will be taken during or when the examination is completed and you may be asked to wait until the technologist or radiologist checks the images in case additional images are needed.

Your intravenous line will be removed.

MRI exams generally include multiple runs (sequences), some of which may last several minutes. The entire examination is usually completed within 30 to 45 minutes.

Preparations

Prior to your musculoskeletal MR scan you will be asked to change into a gown. Unless told otherwise, you may follow your regular daily routine and take food and medication as usual.

Be sure to inform your radiologist about any allergies, health problems, recent surgeries and recent illnesses. Women should always inform their radiologist if there is any possibility that they are pregnant.

You will be asked to remove all jewelry and clothing containing metal. Jewelry and metal of any kind can interfere with the magnetic field of the MRI. Metal and electronic objects are not allowed in the exam room.