

MR Scan for Extremities

Appointment Information

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

About

MR scans are offered for the body's extremities to examine joints, tendons, muscles and vessels in the following areas of the body:

- Neck
- Spine
- Shoulder
- Elbows
- Wrist
- Hip
- Pelvis
- Knee
- Ankle

A MR scan gives clear views of these parts of the body to help diagnose or evaluate:

- Degenerative joint disorders such as arthritis and labral tears.
- Joint abnormalities, due to trauma, such as tears of ligaments and tendons.
- Sports related injuries and work-related disorders caused by repeated strain, forceful impact or vibration.
- Infections
- Tumors involving bones and joints
- Pain, swelling or bleeding in the tissues in and around the joints.
- Decreased motion of the shoulder joint.

During the 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.

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 following the injection.

When the examination is completed, 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

On the day of your MR scan of the neck, spine, shoulder, elbow, wrist, hip, pelvis, knee or ankle you will be asked to change into a gown. Unless instructed otherwise, there are no diet or daily medication restrictions prior to your MR scan.

Be sure to inform your radiologist about any allergies, medical conditions, recent injuries and medications. Women should always inform their radiologist if there is any possibility that they are pregnant. Consult with your radiologist if you have claustrophobia or anxiety.