

# Brain MR Scans

## Appointment Information

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## About

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the brain is performed to help diagnose conditions such as:

- Brain tumors
- Stroke
- Infections
- Developmental anomalies
- Hydrocephalus — dilatation of fluid spaces within the brain (ventricles)
- Causes of epilepsy (seizure)
- Hemorrhage in selected trauma patients
- Certain chronic conditions, such as multiple sclerosis
- Disorders of the eye and inner ear
- Disorders of pituitary gland
- Vascular problems, such as an aneurysm (a bubble-like expansion of the vessel), arterial occlusion (blockage) or venous thrombosis (a blood clot within a vein)
- Physicians also use the MR examination to detect brain abnormalities in patients with dementia, a disorder that can cause confusion or memory loss.

In a brain MRI examination, you will be positioned on the moveable examination table that will move through the center of the MRI magnet.

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.

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

## Preparations

You will be asked to wear a gown during the brain magnetic resonance imaging scan (MRI) scan.

Guidelines about eating and drinking before an MRI exam vary with the specific exam. Unless you are told otherwise, you may follow your regular daily routine and take food and medications as usual.

The radiologist should also know if you have any serious health problems, or if you have recently had surgery. Some conditions, such as severe kidney disease may prevent you from being given contrast material for an MRI. If there is a history of kidney disease, it may be necessary to perform a blood test to determine whether the kidneys are functioning adequately.

Women should always inform their radiologist or technologist if there is any possibility that they are pregnant.