

C h e s t M R S c a n s

Appointment Information

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

About

MRI of the chest performed by radiologists give detailed pictures of structures within the chest cavity, including the mediastinum, chest wall, pleura, heart and vessels, from almost any angle. A chest MRA also provides movie-like sequential imaging of the cardiovascular system that is important to assess the health and function of the heart, valves and vessels.

During the MRI of your chest, you will be positioned on the moveable examination table. 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.

You will be moved into the magnet of the MRI unit and the technologist will leave the room while the MRI examination is performed.

You may be asked to hold your breath during the scanning. Any motion, whether breathing or body movements, can lead to artifacts on the images. This loss of image quality can resemble the blurring seen on a photograph taken of a moving object.

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. Depending on the type of exam and the equipment used, the entire exam is usually completed in 15 to 45 minutes.

Preparations

You will be asked to wear a gown during the chest MRI. Patients with pacemakers and certain types of metal in their body cannot be scanned.

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.