

PATIENT INFORMATION

You have an appointment in the Radiology Department at St. Paul's Hospital.

Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Please arrive 30 minutes early. This gives you time to check in. Please bring with you photo identification and your BC CareCard (personal health number). **Be prepared to spend up to two hours in the department.**

Please do not bring your children with you unless you bring someone to care for them while you are having the test.

If you are not able to keep your appointment, please call **604-806-8548** as soon as possible. Please give us at least 24 hours notice so we can use your time for someone else. When you call, we will give you another date and time for your test.

Things you need to know

What is Magnetic Resonance Imaging?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging is a special kind of x-ray. We commonly refer to this as having an 'MRI'. It uses a large magnet, radio waves, and a computer to look inside the body. It creates clear pictures or images of bones, organs, and soft tissues. This type of exam does not use x-rays or radiation.

What do I need to do to prepare for the test?

★ Are you pregnant? Think you might be pregnant? Please tell us★

You may eat and drink as usual. Take your regular medicines unless your doctor instructs you to do something different. Wear comfortable cloths that are easy for you to take on and off.

Because we use a large magnet in the MRI, you can not have any metallic objects or mechanical devices on you. We will ask you to take off all personal belongings. We have lockers for you to put all your belongings into. You must remove **jewellery, watches, dentures, partial plates, hearing aids, and any other metallic objects.** Try not to wear eye makeup as many products contain metal.

Special note – You usually cannot have an MRI if you have any of the following:

- Metallic implants (certain types)
- Prosthetic devices (certain types)
- Metallic foreign body in your eye (*attention metal workers)
- Pacemakers (all types)
- Aneurysm clips
- Cochlear implants

If being in a small space scares you (if you are claustrophobic), let your doctor know. You may need to take a medicine to relax you. Tell our staff about this as well.

If you suffer from back pain when lying on your back for more than 30 minutes, tell your doctor. You may need to take pain medicine before the test.

What happens before the test?

When you arrive, we ask you to fill in a form to tell us about any medical problems and surgeries. For your safety, we will ask you a number of times about past accidents, injuries and surgeries before doing your test. We need to make sure you do not have any metal on or in your body.

We take you to a change room to change into hospital shirt and pants. You must remove all your clothes except your underpants. You then lock up all your belongings in one of our lockers. Please leave any valuables at home. **Note:** The magnet will damage watches and erase credit or bank cards. They must be locked up with your belongings.

If you do not speak English well, you will need an interpreter. We need to understand you and you need to understand us. We can supply trained interpreters. There is no cost. To book an interpreter, ask someone who speaks English to call us at least one week before your test. Ask them to tell us the language you speak and that you need an interpreter for your appointment.

What happens during the test?

The test takes between 30 minutes to 2 hours.

During the MRI, you are lying down on a firm table. Our technologist will position you on the table, making sure you are comfortable. The table slides into the MRI machine until the part of your body to be checked is in the centre.

While the MRI is being done, relax! Lie very still. You may sleep. You will hear loud knocking noises. These are the normal sounds of the machine and are not harmful. We give you either a headset to listen to music or earplugs. These help to block out the noise from the machine. If you wish to listen to music, you can choose from our selection of music. If needed, a special piece of equipment called a surface coil may be placed on or around the body part being examined. The coil helps to focus the radio waves.

Usually, you are alone in the room. The technologist is in the next room and can see you through a window. In case you need the technologist during the MRI, we give you a button so you can alert us should you have any problems. When the machine is not running, we use an intercom to talk with you. Let us know at any time if you need help or are uncomfortable.

What can I expect after my test?

When the test is finished, you can go. Usually, you can continue on with your day.

If you took medicine to relax during the test, you should have someone drive you home. You will feel a little sleepy for a few hours.

Our radiologist looks over your images and writes a report. The report is sent to your doctor. If your doctor does not have your results within two weeks, please ask your doctor to contact us.

If you have any questions or concerns, please talk with any of our staff.

Questions I have:

End of Page.