

Procedure Information: Cardiac MRI

What is a Cardiac MRI?

A Cardiac MRI is a noninvasive medical test that provides detailed images of the heart and surrounding structures.

When is a Cardiac MRI ordered?

Myocardial infarction

Myxoma, masses or thrombi

Morphology of the heart

Viability

Chronic ARVD

Cardiomyopathy

Congenital cardiac disease

Patient preparation

No preparation is needed. Wear comfortable loose-fitting clothing with no metal snaps, zippers or other metal material. Blood work may be required prior to study based on medical history.

What to expect during a Cardiac MRI exam.

A MRI technologist will verify your identity and obtain medical history for the radiologist. You will be asked to lay flat on a moveable padded examination table. The MRI technologist will make sure you are as comfortable as possible because you need to hold still throughout the length of your scan. Contrast material (MRI dye) is required for this exam. The technologist will insert an intravenous (IV) catheter into a vein in your arm or hand. MRI Images of the heart are taken, then the contrast material will be injected, then more images will be taken after the injection. The MRI machine is loud so for your comfort, our MRI offers a patient stereo system that allows you to listen to a CD or radio station during your study. You are welcome to bring a CD of your own.

Length of the procedure

The MRI scan will generally last between 30- 45 minutes.

UPMC Susquehanna