

Procedure Information: MRI of the Head

What is an MRI of the head?

An MRI of the head is a sensitive imaging test of the head (particularly in the brain) that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions. There are multiple MRI's of the head, including:

- Brain
- Pituitary
- Internal auditory canal (IAC)
- Seizure
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Orbits

When is an MRI of the head ordered?

MRI imaging of the head is performed for a number of symptoms. It can help diagnose conditions such as:

- Brain tumors
- Stroke
- Infections
- Developmental abnormalities
- Hydrocephalus-dilatation of fluid spaces with the brain ventricles
- Causes of epilepsy (seizures)
- Hemorrhage
- Certain chronic conditions, such as multiple sclerosis
- Disorders of the eye and inner ear
- Disorders of the pituitary gland

Patient preparation

- There is no preparation for this exam
- Wear comfortable loose fitting clothing with no metal snaps, zippers, or other metal material
- Blood work may be required prior to study depending on your age or medical history

What happens during an MRI of the head?

A MRI technologist will verify your identity and obtain medical history for the radiologist. You will be asked to lay flat on a padded examination table. The technologist will make you as comfortable as possible because you will need to hold still for the duration of your scan. 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.

Certain MRI exams of the head require the use of a contrasting agent, which is given through a intravenous (IV) injection. If this is necessary, it will be discussed in detail with you prior to injection.

Length of Procedure

The MRI scan will take up to 30-45 minutes depending on the area of interest and the use of the contrast injection.