



## WHAT IS AN MRI?

MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging, which is a way to get images of different parts of the body without using x-rays. An MRI scanner is a very strong and large magnet in which the patient lies in the middle of. A radio wave antenna is used to send signals to the body and then receive signals back. The signals are converted into pictures by a computer connected to the scanner.

An MRI is safe for most patients. People who may not be able are those who are afraid of small spaces and those who have implanted medical devices such as heart pacemakers, cochlear implants, etc. Certain objects that are typically with someone such as watches, credit cards, cell phones, etc. could be damaged by the MRI machine or pulled away from our bodies if the patient goes into the MRI room. Metal also disrupts the image if it is too close to the body part that is being scanned.

When you go in for the MRI you will lay on a table that will move you into the center of the magnet. You have the option to have earplugs during the MRI to reduce the noises that occur. You may hear loud noises and during this it is best for you to stay as still as possible so that the images will come out clear. There may be some vibrations which come from the table you are laying on; this is completely normal.

MRI's are great for looking at non-bony parts or soft tissues of the body such as nerves, muscles, ligaments, tendons, and the spinal cord. These images are way more clear than normal x-rays and CAT scans which is why your provider may want you to get one.