A NURSES GUIDE
TO M.R.I.
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WHAT IS M.R.I. ?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging or M.R.I. is a state of the art technology that uses a very strong magnet, radiofrequency pulses and antennae to produce highly diagnostic images.

M.R.I. does not use ionizing radiation and there are no known side effects to patients or staff.

However, the strong magnetic field and radiofrequency pulses can cause harm to patients and staff when proper measures are not taken.

SAFETY ISSUES

Static Magnetic Field Strength:

The magnet is always on. Any ferromagnetic object can become a projectile and be pulled into the M.R.I. machine with a potentially deadly force. Oxygen tanks, IV poles and pumps, mop buckets and chairs have all found their way into M.R.I. machines.
Radiofrequency Heating:

The RF electromagnetic field of an MR system can induce currents in electrically conductive materials present in the bore of the MR system. The induced current can heat the conductor and burn the patient. Patients have received burns from medical equipment cables (ECG) leads, and transdermal patches.

SCREENING PROCEDURES

Each person entering the M.R.I. exam room will be screened by a M.R.I. technologist prior to doing so. This procedure will take place each and every time a patient or staff member enters the exam room. The questions are health history related regarding previous injuries involving metal and surgeries involving implants.

The M.R.I. technologist is trained to identify potential risks to patients and staff alike.
ESCORTING A PATIENT TO M.R.I.

If there is a chance you may need to enter the exam room while you are in M.R.I. the screening form will be filled out by the MRI staff prior to doing so.

You will be asked to remove all metal prior to entering the room. Scissors, pagers, cell phones, coins, lighters and keys are all potentially dangerous. Please remove as many of these objects from your pockets as possible prior to leaving the unit for the MRI area.

If **you** have a pacemaker, defibrillator, aneurysm clip, cochlear implant or have had metal in your eyes before, you will not be allowed in the scan room for your own safety.

Debit/Credit cards will be demagnetized if taken into the room. Jewelry is usually fine, watches are not.
IN PATIENT CHECKLIST

1. Is the MRI requisition complete? It is imperative the entire requisition be filled out. An appointment will not be given if the “EXAM REQUESTED”, "CLINICAL INFORMATION/HISTORY AND "PATIENT SAFETY SCREENING QUESTIONS" are not complete.

2. Does the patient require a family member to complete the screening process? If so, the MRI staff could do so by phone prior to the patient's arrival or at the time of exam. A MRI cannot be performed if this process is not complete.

3. Does the patient require sedation for the MRI exam? If the patient is claustrophobic or restrained, sedation is usually required to achieve a diagnostic exam.

4. Is the patient in a great deal of pain? MRI scans are long, 3-7 minutes, and if the patient moves at all during a scan all the images from that scan are blurry. If the patient is in pain, a pain killer may be necessary for the patient to be still and have a successful test.

5. Whenever possible, please ensure the patient arrives to MRI without an IV pump, transdermal patches, ECG leads, a gown with metal snaps or a holter monitor.

6. If you have any questions regarding the MRI exam for your patient please call the MRI control room.

7. If you need to cancel or postpone your patient's test, please give the MRI staff ample notice so a replacement patient can be scheduled.