



Warren D. King, M.D.

Orthopedic Surgeon Specializing in Arthroscopy and Sports Medicine

What is an MRI?

MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging, a technique that allows us to obtain detailed images of any part of the body without the use of x-rays. In order to produce these images, magnetic resonance uses a large magnet, radio waves and a computer. It offers greater images of soft tissue, than with other forms of imaging tests. There are no known harmful effects from exposure to the radio waves or magnetic fields. In addition to being safe, the procedure is painless. An MRI enables us to obtain detailed information about various tissues not possible with any other imaging methods.

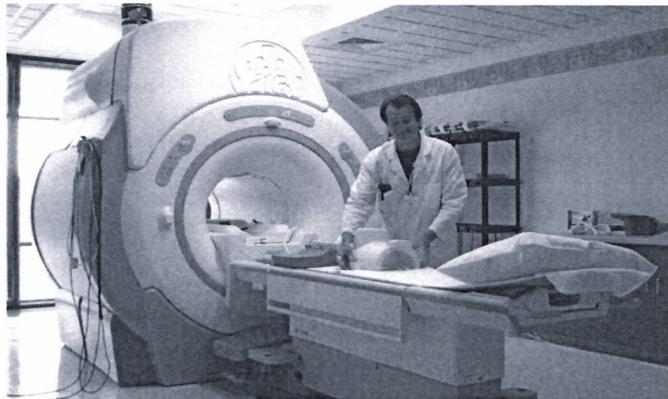
What will I experience during an examination? With the assistance of a technologist, you will be properly positioned on a padded table, which will be moved into a large open-ended cylinder containing the magnet. If you are uncomfortable in small spaces, please mention this to the technologist. The technologist is in constant contact with you by an intercom and viewing window that allows him or her to see and hear you throughout the exam.

The length of your exam depends on the type of study being conducted. The duration of the exam ranges from 30 to 90 minutes. Sometimes, depending on what part of the body is being scanned, your head will be placed in the middle of the magnet. However, the part that is being scanned is placed in the middle of the magnet. For example, if your ankle is being scanned, your head will probably be outside; if it is your knee, part of your head might remain outside.

During the scanning process, you will experience a rhythmic thumping sound. It is important that you lie still, as motion will blur the pictures. Few patients have difficulty relaxing and lying quietly, and many patients fall asleep during the exam.

How do I prepare for an MRI? You may engage in your daily routine and take your usual medications. Most patients eat and drink as usual the day of the examination.

Wear something comfortable without metal objects attached, as the metal can interfere with the examination. You may be asked to change into a hospital gown to eliminate metal objects, such as zippers, buckles and metallic thread. Glasses, hairpins, watches and jewelry should also be removed. You will be given access to a personal locker outside the examination room, where your valuables can be kept secure.



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Palo Alto Medical
Foundation

Palo Alto Office
795 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, CA 94301
ph (650) 853.2943
fax (650) 853.6094