Care Gram

# Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

**Date of Test:** _____ **Test Time:** _____

**Welcome**
Welcome to the Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) Radiology Department. Your doctor has requested a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) test. MRI is a diagnostic tool for obtaining more precise images of tissue within the human body. MRI does not involve radiation or radioactivity.

**How the Test Works**
- MRI uses a powerful magnetic field and radio frequency to make precise images of the human body.

**Allowing Time**
The length of your MRI test depends on the area of your body being studied. In general, it takes about 30 to 45 minutes. You should allow more time for your visit.

**Preparation**
❒ MRI and MRA* abdomen (liver, kidney, renal arteries, etc.)
- Nothing to eat or drink for 6 to 8 hours before the test.

❒ MRI Cholangiogram (MRCP) test of the bile ducts
- Nothing to eat or drink for 6 to 8 hours before the test.
- You may take prescribed medications with 4 ounces of water.

❒ All other MRI tests
- No special preparation is needed.
- You may eat and drink before the test and take your prescribed medications.

**A MRA (magnetic resonance angiography) is a MRI study of blood vessels. Standard MRI cannot detect blood flow. MRA can produce images of blood vessels and blood flow using radio waves and a strong magnetic field.*

**Your Role**
1. Leave jewelry and other accessories at home, if possible. Metal and electronic objects interfere with the magnetic field of the MRI unit and are not allowed in the exam room. These items include:
   - Jewelry, watches, credit cards, and hearing aids which can be damaged by MRI
   - Pins, hairpins, metal zippers, and other metallic items which can distort MRI images
   - Removable dental work
   - Pens, pocketknives, and eyeglasses
   - Body piercings

2. Tell your radiologist or technologist if you have any metal implants. MRI is safe for patients with metal implants, except for the types of implants listed below. Do not enter the MRI scanning area unless told to do so by a radiologist or technologist who is aware of your metal implant.
   - Non-compatible/non-conditional internal (implanted) defibrillator or pacemaker
   - Cochlear (ear) implant
   - Some types of clips used on brain aneurysm
   - Some types of metal coils placed within blood vessels

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3. Tell your radiologist or technologist if you have medical or electronic devices in your body because such may interfere with the exam or pose a risk, depending on their nature and the strength of the MRI magnet. Some implanted devices require a short period of time after placement (typically 6 weeks) before being safe for an MRI test. Devices may include:
   - Artificial heart valves
   - Implanted drug infusion ports
   - Implanted electronic device, such as a non-compatible/non-conditional cardiac pacemaker
   - Artificial limbs or metallic joint prostheses
   - Implanted nerve stimulators
   - Metal pins, screws, plates, stents, surgical staples, or metal mesh

   Most metal objects used in orthopedic surgery pose no risk during MRI. However, a recently placed artificial joint may require the use of a different imaging procedure. If there is any question about the presence of these items, an X-ray can be taken to detect any metal objects.

4. Let the MRI staff know right away if you are pregnant, think you might be, or weigh more than 550 pounds.

5. Relax during the test. You may breathe normally. You will be asked to lay as still as possible.

**Registering**

Please report directly to the Registration area on the LMH First Floor. Come to this area 30 minutes before your scheduled test time.

**During the MRI**

- You may be asked to change into a hospital gown, depending on the area of the test. There will be a locker for your clothes and personal items. You will be given a key to the locker to keep your items safe.
- You will have Sirius Radio to listen to during your test.
- For this test, you will be inside a magnetic field. The part of your body being tested will be in the center of the cylinder of the scanner. You will hear a loud knocking sound like a drumbeat during the test. You must stay still at this time. You can use earplugs if you want.
- The MRI staff can hear you through an intercom in the magnet during the whole test. If you become uncomfortable at any time, just say so or use the provided squeeze ball and a staff member will assist you.
- Depending on the type of test, a contrast agent or “dye” may be needed to get a sharper picture. The doctor will decide if you need the dye. It will be given by intravenous injection.



This Care Gram is for information purposes only. It may become out-of-date over time. Ask a doctor or a healthcare professional about your specific condition.

**After the Test**
The MRI staff will go with you to the waiting area. You may then change and get your personal items from the locker. If you had dye, it will be eliminated through your urine. It should not discolor your urine or bowel movements. Drink plenty of fluids to flush the dye from your system.

**Finding Out the Results**
The radiologist will study your test and give the findings to your doctor. Your doctor will talk to you about the results.

**Reminder**
- If you have any questions about your test, please call (220) 564-4710.
- Go to the Registration area on the LMH First Floor 30 minutes before your test.

Licking Memorial Health Systems complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.
ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1 (220) 564-4006 (TTY: 1 (220) 564-4729).
注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1 (220) 564-4006 (TTY : 1 (220) 564-4729)。

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