

Why an MRI Scan?

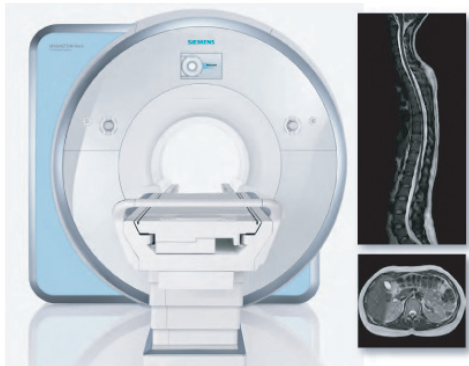
You may have an MRI scan to find out the cause of symptoms such as pain, joint or muscle stiffness, swelling or weight loss. You may also have an MRI scan if you have been diagnosed with a condition such as cancer, where your doctor needs detailed information to make decisions about what treatment is best.

What is an MRI Scan?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) exams are non-invasive diagnostic imaging exams of soft tissue, tendons and muscles, and have become one of the fastest growing types of medical diagnostic tests in the United States.

MRI is a special technique that uses powerful magnets, radio waves and computers to produce detailed images (or scans) of the inside of the body.

Because an MRI scanner takes very detailed pictures of the body, it can often show things that aren't seen on an X-ray or in other tests such as an ultrasound and CT scans.



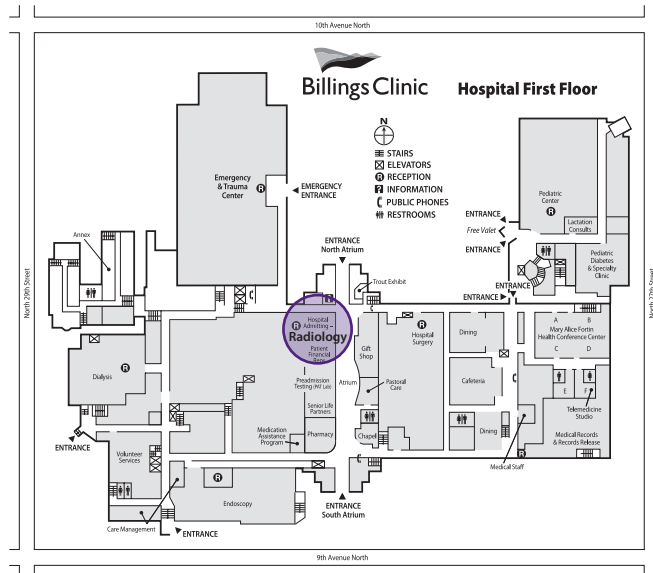
Name _____

Physician _____

Procedure Date _____

Arrival Time _____

For more information, call HeathLine at 406-255-8400 or 1-800-252-1246 or visit www.billingsclinic.com/radiology



Hospital Radiology is located at the north atrium entrance of the hospital.

Reminder:

Some insurance companies request pre-approval.


Billings Clinic

MRI



Billings Clinic Hospital Radiology

2800 10th Avenue North
Billings, MT 59107-7000
238-2500 or 1-800-332-7156

**Hospital
Radiology**

Why is this MRI so different?

The MAGNETOM systems at Billings Clinic offer doctors an array of diagnostic possibilities while providing patients with a more comfortable experience.

Like all MRIs, the MAGNETOM Aera (1.5T) and Skyra (3.0T) uses very strong magnets that are measured in Tesla (T) to acquire images. The MAGNETOM Aera and Skyra offers superb image quality that may be used for a wide range of medical needs – from orthopedic and sports-related injuries to breast cancer testing – and can help physicians make quicker, more accurate diagnoses.

The MRI scanners boast a large 70 cm open bore, where the patient lies during the imaging process and can provide



access for patients of up to 550 pounds. Additionally, the system's "ultra-short" bore can help to alleviate concerns of claustrophobia since many exams can be performed with the patient's head outside of the bore.



Another patient-friendly feature includes the mood lighting on the system, which can help create a calming environment for patients in the examination room.

What should I expect?

You may wear a comfortable metal-free sweatsuit from home. You will be asked to remove any metal objects.



Patients having a brain scan should not wear eye makeup the day of the exam and will be asked to remove any hair pieces or wigs.

In some cases your doctor may request a contrast agent during your exam which adds valuable diagnostic information to your MRI. This is injected into a vein in your arm.

It is very important that you let us know about any metal objects implanted in your body-either surgically or from accidents. Tell us if you have a pacemaker.

Why can't I have an MRI?

Patients with pacemakers or neuro-stimulators cannot have an MRI. Patients who have had an incident of metal in their eye will need X-rays taken of their eyes prior to the MRI to make sure no metal remains in eye.

Implants: MRI scans may not be conducted on people with cardiac pacemakers, defibrillators and stimulators, some types of aneurysm clips in the brain, some types of heart valves and some types of metallic implants. Please let your doctor and Billings Clinic Radiology know if you have had surgery involving the implantation of any metal, electronic or mechanical devices.

Pregnancy: While continuing research indicates the safety of MRI during pregnancy, it is important to let your doctor and technologist know if you are pregnant or suspect that you are.

Will I need to be sedated?

Most people will not need sedation.

If it is determined to be necessary, we may contact your physician who ordered this exam for a prescription. You should not operate a motorized vehicle for the remainder of the day if sedation is used.



What if I am from out-of-town?

If you are staying in Billings, please give your doctor and Billings Clinic Radiology a telephone number where you can be reached.

If you need to cancel your exam, please contact us 48 hours before your appointment. For our out-of-town patients, please consider arriving the day prior to the scan (because of possible inclement weather). We request a contact number (cell and/or place where you are staying).

Billings Clinic Radiology: (406) 237-1300