

MRI

Welcome to VCU Health MRI. We have multiple locations across the greater Richmond area. Our downtown campus has four locations: Gateway Building, North Hospital, Adult Outpatient Pavilion (AOP), and the Children's Hospital. We also offer MRI services at our Stony Point and Short Pump locations. The hours of operation vary by site, but we have availability seven days a week. Advanced scheduling is required for all MRI exams. Please review the following information about your test. Please call (804) 628-3580 to schedule your test or if you have any questions about your MRI exam.

Why are you having this test?

An MRI visualizes various structures and tissue types within the body. Because it provides a high level of detail, an MRI is preferred for various purposes. Your doctor has decided that an MRI is necessary to visualize a specific part of your body to determine whether pathology is present.

Preparing for the test

- Check-in/Registration times vary based on your appointment type. You should check in **no earlier** than 30 minutes before the appointment unless specifically directed by your scheduler. Please allow for additional time for parking if you have an appointment downtown. We do offer valet services for a fee.
- Take your medications as prescribed.
- Bring a picture ID and your insurance information.
- Bring information about any implants inside your body, including the card for your pacemaker and leads.
- If you have a pacemaker this clearance process will begin in advance of your appointment. Anticipate a call from our specialty scheduling team who will assist with the screening process.

What to expect during the test

- A radiologist will explain the procedure and get your consent.

- You may need to have a chest x-ray done before the MRI to confirm that the placement of pacemaker leads is safe for MRI.
- A representative from the company that made your pacemaker will check the device and switch it to a different mode or turn it off if necessary.
- The test will take 30 minutes or more.
- If you have multiple MRI studies scheduled, they will take about 30 minutes each.
- You may or may not receive intravenous gadolinium contrast.
- A needle (IV) will be placed in a vein, whether contrast is used.
- Your heart rate, blood pressure, and blood oxygen content will be monitored by a nurse throughout the exam. Rescue medications will be on hand in case of any issues.
- You will lie down inside a tube on a flat table for the exam.
- It is very important to hold still for the exam, or the pictures will not be readable.
- Contrast will be administered at some point during the scan if your test requires contrast.
- If you are claustrophobic or have pain issues that may interfere with your ability to stay still, talk to your doctor BEFORE scheduling your MRI.

After Care information

- The representative from your device's manufacturer will put your pacemaker back into normal operating mode and check the device.
- You may return to all your normal activities.
- MRI contrast is expelled from the body through your urine. Drinking extra fluids may help the contrast leave your body faster if you receive MRI contrast.

Follow-up care after the procedure

For Results: Please contact the physician who ordered your test.