Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) at Ross Heart Hospital

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a safe, painless way for your doctor to look into your body. Your doctor wants you to have a cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) test. This test can show images or pictures of the heart and blood vessels from any angle. The pictures can help your doctor diagnose many problems that are not seen with other tests. This is a safe and painless test. MRI uses powerful magnets and radio frequency waves. The radio signals are then put into a computer to show a picture of the heart and blood vessels.

What You Need to Know

There are some implants that can either be NOT safe for you to have an MRI or need special precautions taken for your safety.

If you have any of the following and have never had an MRI at Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center, call cardiology scheduling at (614) 293-7677 so that you may be connected with a technologist who can review your information.

- Are or could be pregnant
- Have a heart pacemaker
- Have aneurysm clips
- An implanted pump or stimulator
- An artificial heart valve
- Weigh over 300 pounds
- Have any magnetic implants
- Have a blood clot filter
- Penile prosthesis
- Programmable VP or LP shunt valve

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- Breast tissue expander
- Metal shrapnel or metal fragments inside your body or eyes
- Stents anywhere in the body
- Mediport that you would like us to access for IV contrast medication

If we cannot identify the implants in your body, this may result in your test being delayed, rescheduled, or even cancelled.

To Prepare for the Test

We need to know how well your kidneys work. This is determined by routine blood work and needs to be done within the past 30 days.

- You will need to remove all metal items such as watch, hairpins, jewelry, coins and piercings from your body. Please leave valuable belongings at home. If you need to bring a credit card or other valuables with you, you will have a locker that you can use while your test is done.

- If you wear any kind of medicine patch, such as a nicotine or nitroglycerin patch, they will need to be removed for this test. Bring a new patch that you can put on after your test.

- Bring a list of any medicines you take. Include prescription, over the counter, herbal and vitamin supplements. We will need to know how often you take each medicine and your doses.

- Avoid caffeinated foods and drinks for at least 12 hours before your test. Caffeine is in cola and other sodas, regular and decaffeinated coffee, tea, and chocolate.

- Avoid smoking for 12 hours before your MRI.

- Do not eat or drink for 3 hours before your test. You may take your routine medicines with a small sip of water.

- If you are claustrophobic (fear being in a closed space) and need medicine to help you relax, tell the doctor who ordered the test (referring physician). We do not provide it at the MRI facility. If you have this medicine, you must have an adult to take you home.
The Day of the Test

- We ask you to arrive 30 minutes before your appointment time. There are many questions we need to ask before you have the MRI. Failing to arrive on time may result in delaying your test or rescheduling.
- You will be asked to fill out a form for your insurance and billing information. Remember to bring your insurance card(s) with you.
- We will ask you to fill out a form about your health history. Please bring any cards or operative reports you may have for any implants in your body.
- You will be asked to change into a hospital gown. Please wear pants that have no metal zippers or snaps. A locker is provided for your clothes and belongings. You will need to remove dentures for the test.
- An IV will be started in your arm for IV medicine called contrast. IV contrast is needed to give better pictures. In some cases, a second IV may be needed to give you other medicines.

What happens during the MRI?

You should plan on being at the hospital 2 to 3 hours for this exam.

The MRI machine is a tube that is about 3 feet wide and 6 feet long.

- Your whole body will be inside this tube with your head about one foot from the end of the tube.
- Using a speaker and headphones, the radiology technologist will be able to talk with you during the test.
- The technologist will ask you to hold your breath for many of the pictures.
- Stay as still as possible during the test to get the best pictures. You will hear knocking sounds as the machine takes the pictures.
After Your Test

- A cardiologist, or heart specialist doctor, will read the pictures. Your doctor will receive the results and then share them with you.

- Drink 8 (8 ounce) cups of non-caffeinated liquids to flush the contrast medicine used during the MRI out of your body. Good liquids for most people to drink are water, milk and juice. Limit the amount of caffeine you drink. Caffeine may be found in coffee, tea, soda, sports drinks and foods.

- If you have any problems or feel something is not right after your test, call your doctor.

Test Location

Your test will be at Ohio State’s Ross Heart Hospital, 452 W. 10th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, 43210.

For any questions about the test, or if you need to reschedule, please call the scheduling office at (614) 293-7677. We will be happy to help you.

Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.