



UNDERSTANDING MRI

The Open MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) at **Headache & Pain Center, amc** has many advantages. It allows physicians to take a look inside the body and can lead to early detection and treatment of healthcare problems. It does not use radiation and is not harmful to the patient.

Unlike the older tunnel-like MRI models, the patient can take comfort in the machine's open sides.



YOUR MRI PROCEDURE

Your Arrival

- The procedure will be explained.
- You may be asked to sign a consent form.
- You will change into a hospital gown.
- You must remove all metal objects such as: jewelry, glasses, clothing with zippers and non-permanent dentures.

Before the Scan

- The technologist will position you on the MRI scanning table, usually on your back. Please let us know if you are not comfortable.
- A coil (ring-like device) may be placed around the part of the body to be scanned.
- A contrast agent (a substance that helps diagnose certain conditions) may be injected, if ordered by your physician.

During the Scan

- The table will slide you under the magnet of the MRI machine. The sides and back of the unit are open. If you feel anxious, talk to the technologist. Tell the technologist if you feel any discomfort.
- Stay as still as possible so the images don't blur. Try to relax. You will feel no pain. You will hear some knocking or thumping sounds. These are normal. Total scanning time ranges from 30 minutes to 1 hour.

After the Scan

- The images will be reviewed by an experienced radiologist.
- The results will be delivered to and reviewed by Headache & Pain Center's healthcare team.
- You will be contacted by phone to discuss the results and schedule an office visit, if necessary.
- Outpatient referrals - results will be delivered to referring physician.

WHAT IS AN MRI USED TO DIAGNOSE?

- **Brain And Nervous System Disorders**
Such As Multiple Sclerosis and Stroke
- **Arthritis**
- **Tumors**
- **Herniated And Degenerated Discs**
- **Certain Spinal Conditions**
- **Problems Caused By Injury Or Overuse**
- **Problems Affecting Tendons, Cartilage, Ligaments, Joints, Spine And Bone Marrow**
- **Cancer And Infections In Some Organs And Tissues**

WHAT IF I HAVE A METAL IMPLANT?

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any metal implants, such as cardiac pacemaker, other metal objects or permanent dental bridges or braces. He or she will determine if you can have an MRI scan.



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