



## **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)- Breast**

### **Definition:**

Magnetic Resonance Imaging is a special imaging procedure using a magnetic field and radiofrequency waves rather than X-rays. Magnetic Resonance Imaging makes it possible to see certain types of tissue better than X-rays and allows 3-D pictures of your body to help your doctor make a more precise diagnosis.

### **Prior to the MRI:**

- Before an appointment is scheduled, you must fill out an MRI patient screening form.
- This form is very important as it allows us to make sure it is safe for you to enter the magnetic field of the MRI machine.
- If you need a translator to help you read and understand this form, please have a translator come with you.
- There are a few instances when MRI cannot be performed on a patient with metal in their body.
- An MRI technologist will carefully assess your situation and prepare you for your procedure.
- If you have had a previous allergic reaction to contrast medium, it is very important you let us know.
- If there is a possibility you are pregnant, please notify us, as the test may have to be delayed or cancelled.
- You may continue your normal diet, unless otherwise notified.
- You may take your routine medications.
- If you are in pain, remember to take your pain medication before the test and bring another dose with you.
- The MRI test itself is painless, but you must lie still for approximately 15-30 minutes. This may be more difficult if you are in pain.
- If your doctor has ordered sedation for this test, please fill the prescription and bring it with you. **DO NOT** take it before coming for the test. You will be advised when to take it. **You MUST have someone drive you home if sedation is taken.**
- Please leave your jewellery and other valuables at home. For those things you must bring with you, we will provide a storage locker.
- Please do not wear any eye makeup on exam day.
- If you are unable to keep your appointment, please let us know as soon as possible.

- Please bring any Mammograms or Breast Ultrasounds that you have had done (unless they have been done at Lakeridge)
- The procedure will be done in the MRI Department (North Wing, Level B1) of the Lakeridge Health Oshawa site.
- You will need to change into a hospital gown for this procedure.
- A specially trained technologist will perform the procedure under the supervision of a Radiologist (an X-ray doctor). At times a student technologist may perform part of the procedure under supervision.

### **During the MRI:**

- You will be required to lie very still on your stomach on a bed inside a large scanner (movement will blur the images). The scanner is open at both ends and the room lights are kept on.
- The scanner consists of a strong magnetic field, which, in combination with radio waves and a computer, allows us to obtain images of your body.
- The machine is noisy. You will be given headphones to soften the noise level.
- You will be given a call bell, to use if you wish to terminate the exam at any time.
- Most Breast MRI examinations require the use of an injected substance (Gadolinium) in order to enhance the images; you will be required to consent to the injection of Gadolinium.
- Exams for the assessment of Breast implants can be performed without the use of the injection of Gadolinium.

### **Possible Complications:**

- There should be no after effects as a result of this procedure.
- You may immediately resume your normal diet and activities.
- If your test required the injected substance Gadolinium there is a slight risk associated with the injection. Gadolinium has been used for many years and has been proven to be safe; however, as with any medication it is possible to experience an allergic reaction.

### **When and how will I know the results:**

Your doctor will receive a written report from the radiologists. You should obtain the results from your own doctor.

If you have other questions or concerns that have not been answered here, please feel free to ask our staff. We are here for YOU.

### **Contact Information**

**LH Oshawa Diagnostic Imaging department**

**905-433-4305**

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