

## **BREAST MRI PATIENT INFORMATION**

Because Breast MRI patients are often anxious about their procedure, we offer the following information in an effort to help relieve any anxiety you may be experiencing about the exam.

### **BEFORE SCAN**

You will be asked many questions before your exam. It is important for the radiologist to have your clinical information and history along with the images that are going to be taken so everything can be thoroughly evaluated.

You will be changed into hospital attire.

Location markers will be placed on your nipples, scar tissue and/or area of concern.

The nurse will insert an IV line into either your hand or arm, wherever the best vein can be found.

### **DURING SCAN**

You will be lying on your stomach on what is called a "Breast Coil". The coil has depressions for your breasts. The technologist will instruct you on what to do.

There are compression plates that will guide the breast in and help hold the breast in place. It is not compressed like a mammogram. If you experience discomfort, please let the technologist know so they can reposition you, or relieve the compression. You should not experience extreme discomfort.

The MRI machine makes a very loud "knocking" noise. You will be provided with earphones. They help reduce the noise and you can hear music through them. If you have sensitive ears, we also supply earplugs that you can wear with or without the earphones. You're encouraged to bring in your own CD or pick from our music list.

Because of the motion sensitivity of the exam, the technologist tends not to speak often. If you need communication, please let the technologist know.

Also, please be extremely careful not to move your head or body AT ALL when you answer the technologist.

If there is any problem at the site of the IV during the test, for example, if the needle becomes displaced or you feel a burning sensation during the injection, please let the technologist or nurse know. You will need to speak loudly so that they can hear you over the noise of the machine.

If you're having ANY problem that requires immediate attention, please again speak loudly so the technologist can hear you over the noise of the machine.

If there is something we can do to make your visit more comfortable and not interfere with the quality of the images, please let us know. We want to make you as comfortable as possible.

Please understand because this is not a comfortable position for you to be lying in, we try to move quickly, limiting conversation with you while you're in the machine.

We want your visit here to be a positive one, so please tell us BEFORE the scanning begins what we can do to make it as comfortable as possible for you.

### **AFTER THE SCAN**

Breast MRI scans are more complicated than the typical MRI exam. Accordingly, it may take as long as a week for your doctor to receive the formal report as the radiologist must thoroughly review each of the several hundred images obtained during your study. Please be assured that the radiologists at Southern Tier Imaging have been specially trained in interpreting breast MRI scans.

