

SOUTHERN TIER IMAGING
32-36 HARRISON AVE.
JOHNSON CITY, NY 13790

MRI INFORMATION SHEET

Q. What is an MRI?

A. An MRI system does not use x-rays like other diagnostic studies that you might have had. Instead the MRI uses magnets. These magnets “align” the protons, or part of the atoms that make up the body’s tissues. Then radio waves are transmitted into the body. The system then “listens” to hear the echoes of the radio waves as the protons react. The protons of different tissues and even of different chemicals in the body emit different frequencies of radio waves. Sometimes, but not always, contrast-imaging agents are injected to help obtain specific information. All of the collected information is processed through a specialized computer. The resulting “picture” gives us more detailed information about the body’s tissues than other diagnostic tools.

Q. What is an MRI used for?

A. The MRI is excellent at examining “soft tissue.” Some examples of “soft tissues” are the brain and the nervous system, ligaments, tendons, joints and cartilage. It can also detect bone injuries and tumors. Some new applications for the MRI are abdominal and pelvic organs. It can also be used to examine the heart and blood vessels.

Q. Is this test safe?

A. The exam is safe for eligible patients (see the MRI checklist).

Q. Does it hurt?

A. The exam is completely painless. However, sometimes a contrast-imaging agent is injected to provide greater detail in the tissue.

Q. How do I make an appointment?

A. Call our scheduling office at 607.231.0071 to make an appointment.
Southern Tier Imaging 32-36 Harrison St., Johnson City, NY 13790

Q. How should I prepare to have an MRI?

A. After you are scheduled, our office will call and ask you questions about your present state of health and medical history. We will also explain the procedure and answer any questions about the study. Please let us know if you have claustrophobia. The Open MRI can be used in some cases, because the architecture of the Open MRI provides a less confining exam. In other cases where the Highfield MRI is necessary, sedation can be administered.

Please bring the following to your exam

- A physician's order.
- Insurance information and cards.
- Any outside x-rays that you are asked to bring. This study cannot be done without them!

If you are having a study of your abdomen or pelvis, it is generally better if you do not eat or drink for four hours before the study. We also strongly recommend that children do not get a full night's sleep before the exam. Otherwise eat normally and take all of your regular medications before the exam unless you are instructed differently.

Because this technology uses magnets, you will be asked to remove all metal objects. You will be provided with a locker for your belongings but please leave valuables such as jewelry and large sums of money at home. You may be accompanied in the scanning room during the exam. However, your guest must meet the criteria on the MRI checklist (below).

MRI Checklist

Please let us know if you are pregnant or have:

- Ever been a metal worker.
- Heart valve replacement, bypass, or vascular surgery.
- Implanted drug-infusing device.
- Permanent eyeliner or tattoos.
- Surgery in the last six weeks.
- Cardiac pacemaker.
- Cardiac stent.
- Aneurysm clip.
- Metal implants.
 - Cochlear implants.

Q. What is the actual MRI study like?

A. After you arrive and are registered, you might be asked to change into hospital attire. If so, you will be shown to a changing room where a locker will be provided for you. Please be certain you have removed all jewelry before your exam. A technologist will help you onto the table and position you. Let us know what we can do to make you comfortable. When you are ready, the table will slide into the magnet. As the exam starts, you will hear knocking noises. Staying very still will result in a detailed picture. Usually the entire exam will take 30 – 60 minutes. With special earphones, you can listen to music during the study. You can choose from our selection or if you bring your favorite CD, we can play it for you! Sometimes an injection of a contrast-imaging agent (Gadolinium) is required to allow the radiologists to see certain areas in more detail. Reactions from the contrast-imaging agent are very rare. When the study is finished, our technologist will review the images to make sure they are adequate. After that you're free to go!

Q. When will my doctor get my results?

A. Your doctor will get the results of the study in approximately three business days.