



What is an MRI?

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Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a noninvasive medical test that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions.

MR imaging uses a powerful magnetic field, radio frequency pulses and a computer to produce detailed pictures of organs, soft tissues, bone and virtually all other internal body structures. The images can then be examined on a computer monitor or transmitted electronically. MRI does not use ionizing radiation (x-rays).

MRI of the breast offers valuable information about many breast conditions that cannot be obtained by other imaging modalities, such as mammography or ultrasound.

Do I need to follow any special instructions to be ready for a breast MRI?

During the booking process, it is important to coordinate your appointment between day 7 to 14 from the beginning of your menstrual cycle as hormone levels do affect the tests results. If the MRI is more urgent, then it will be booked any time during the cycle.

There are no restrictions on eating and drinking before an MRI exam. Jewelry and other accessories should be left at home if possible.

In most cases, an MRI exam is safe for patients with metal implants, except

for a few types. You should tell the technologist if you have medical or electronic devices in your body.

Who will perform the procedure?

Your MRI examination will be performed by a technologist who has special training in MRI under the supervision of a radiologist (a specialist medical doctor). The MRI images will be reviewed by a radiologist who will issue a final report to your doctor.

What happens to me during the procedure?

Prior to the MRI examination, you will be asked to put on a hospital gown. While you are waiting to be taken into the MRI room, you will be asked to fill out a brief questionnaire regarding your medical history. This information is very important for the radiologist.

For an MRI of the breast, you will lie face down on your stomach with your breasts hanging freely into cushioned openings, which are surrounded by a breast coil. The breast coil is a signal receiver that works with the MRI unit to create the images. The breast will be gently compressed, much less than it would be done for mammography. It is important to remain very still throughout the exam. This is best accomplished by making sure you are comfortable and can relax rather than trying to actively hold still tensing your muscles. Be sure to let the technologist know if something is uncomfortable,

since discomfort increases the chance that you will feel the need to move during the exam. Even very small movements can limit the ability to get a quality exam.

Should I expect any after effects as a result of the procedure?

There are no known side effects from an MRI examination.

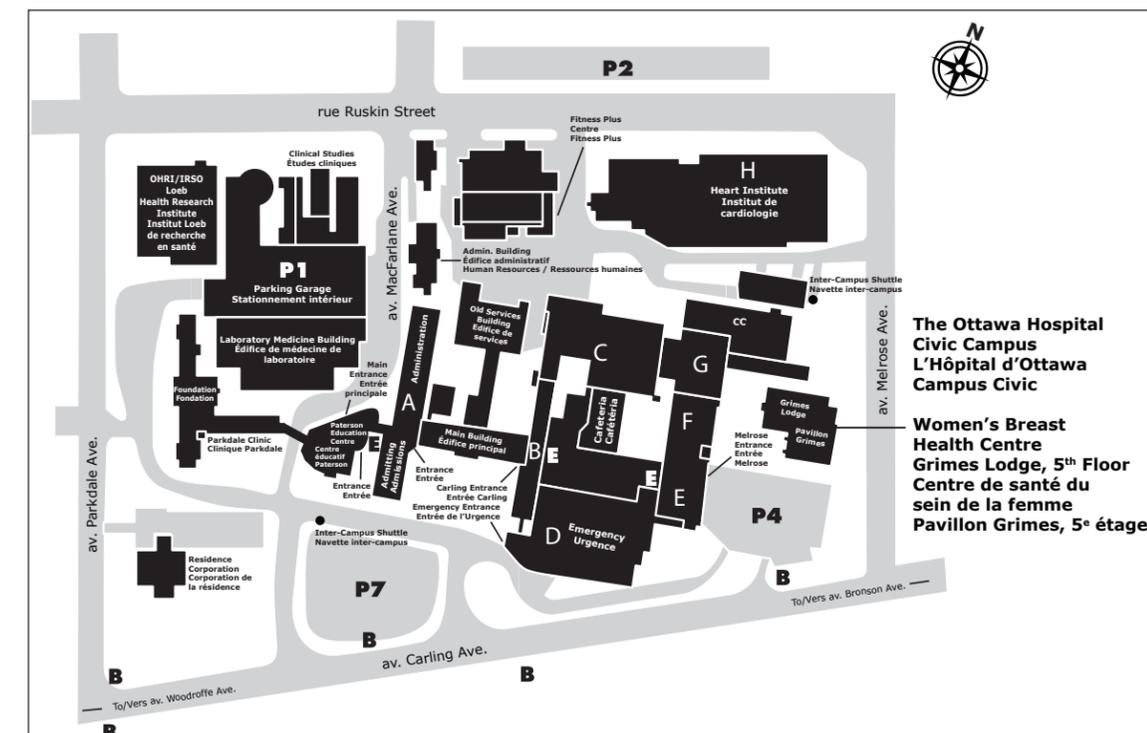
Some patients will feel warm during the examination.

Very rarely, some patients may experience an adverse reaction to the contrast dye. This would be manifested

by a mild non-allergic reaction (nausea or vomiting), mild allergic reaction (hives or skin irritation), and very rarely (< 0.0003%) with severe allergic reaction (difficulty breathing or chest tightness). These reactions occur within 30 minutes of IV injection of contrast.

When will I know the results?

Your doctor will receive a written report from the radiologist within 7 days. You should obtain the results from you doctor.



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