WHAT IS MRI?
MRI is a sophisticated imaging technique that uses a strong magnetic field, radio waves (instead of X-rays), and a computer to produce very detailed images of the organs and tissues within your body. During the MRI, you are placed inside the MRI scanner in which a magnetic field temporarily aligns the water molecules in your body. Radio waves then cause these aligned particles to produce signals which are used to create cross-sectional MRI images like slices in a loaf of bread.

IS A MRI EXAM SAFE?
MRI uses magnetic fields to create images of the body. Your safety is of paramount importance to us so it is vital that you remove metallic objects in advance of the exam, including watches, jewelry, and other items that may include metal. In order to prevent metallic objects from being attracted to the magnet, you will receive a gown and robe to wear during your examination. The screening procedure that our facility follows will ensure that the MRI technologist will know about the presence of metallic implants and materials so special precautions can be taken if needed. In some unusual cases, the exam may be cancelled because of concern related to a particular implant or device.

WHY IS A MRI EXAM ORDERED?
MRI is a non-invasive exam that is able to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy tissue therefore is used to diagnose many conditions. Doctors use MRI to examine the brain, spine, joints, abdomen, pelvic region, breast, blood vessels, heart and other body parts.

HOW WILL MY MRI EXAM BEGIN?
A care team member will escort you to the clinical area to begin preparing you for your exam. We perform many different exams in our center so you may notice others being called back before you for a different type exam. If you wait more than 15 minutes, please let our registrar know and we will check on the status of your exam. For your safety, if you are pregnant or suspect that you may be pregnant, please inform the technologist.

DOES MY MRI EXAM REQUIRE CONTRAST?
A contrast agent called "gadolinium" may be used for some studies to help obtain a clearer picture of the body part undergoing the exam. Not all exams require the use of contrast but some patients may receive contrast administered by IV (intravenous access). Our nursing staff will assist you in preparing for your MRI exam and they will inform you if you will be receiving contrast. It is very important to let the nurse know if you have kidney disease because in some cases you should not receive the contrast agent that contains gadolinium.

If you are receiving IV contrast, your appointment has two parts.

Large-bore MRI machine at UVA Imaging – Northridge
Welcome to UVA Imaging!

We are pleased that you have chosen us to perform your imaging exam. It is our privilege to take care of you today. We care about your comfort, safety and privacy so please let us know if there is anything that we can do to assist you.

At UVA Imaging, all of our MRI Technologists are registered with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. In addition, our center has achieved accreditation with the American College of Radiology. You can be confident in the expertise of our staff and the quality of the images that we produce.

Every study that is performed at UVA Imaging is interpreted by UVA's sub-specialty trained radiologists. You deserve their experience and expertise because their acutely trained eyes catch what others might miss. When the radiologist completes the review of your images, the results of your exam will be sent directly to your referring provider. Your results will also be available in MyChart seven days after they have been completed. If you would like access to your record, please visit mychart.uvahealthsystem.virginia.edu.

Charlottesville Locations

Fontaine Research Park - Building 415
415 Ray C. Hunt Drive
MRI, CT, Ultrasound, X-ray

Fontaine Research Park - Building 545
545 Ray C. Hunt Drive
X-ray, Bone Density, Ultrasound, MSK Fluoroscopy & Pain Injections

Northridge Medical Park
2965 Ivy Road
MRI, Ultrasound, X-ray, MSK Fluoroscopy & Pain Injections

Zion Crossroads Location

Zion Crossroads Medical Park
1015 Spring Creek Parkway
MRI, CT, Ultrasound, X-ray, Mammography

Contact Us

You may receive a survey from the UVA health system in the mail asking about today's appointment. If you receive a survey, we hope that you will complete and return it so we can learn from your feedback. You may also visit us online at uvaimaging.com to share any comments about your experience today.

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