

# Open MRI

SOUTHERN MEDICAL IMAGING

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### What is Open MRI?

An Open MRI is an imaging system that is open to comfortably accommodate all patients. This differs from the traditional tunnel-style magnetic resonance imager in which some patients feel confined and uncomfortable.



### How should you prepare for the procedure?

MRI uses a strong magnetic field. Patients will be interviewed prior to the exam and asked if they have any metallic objects in their body. If there is any question of metal fragments being present, you may be asked to have an x-ray that will detect any such objects. In most cases, cardiac stents, artificial heart valves, prosthetic joints, and surgical staples, plates, pins and screws pose no risk during MRI if they have been in place for more than four to six weeks.

As with all radiological procedures patients should inform the technologist if there is any chance of pregnancy.

- You cannot have an MRI if you have a pacemaker, brain aneurysm clip more than 10 year old, middle ear or cochlear prosthesis, neurostimulator or have had surgery in the past week.
- You must advise the technologist if you have any prosthetic device (such as a knee or hip replacement).
- Do not wear any jewelry, hair ornaments, etc
- All jewelry, earrings, watches, eyeglasses etc must be removed.
- Pockets must not hold any wallets containing credit cards, coins, keys, etc.

If you would like more information about the safety of a particular medical device for the MRI exam, please go to [www.mrisafety.com](http://www.mrisafety.com).

### **What can a person expect during the MRI study?**

The patient is placed on a sliding table by the technologist and positioned comfortably for the study in the bore of the scanner. The technologist leaves the room and programs individual MRI sequences that typically last between 2 and 6 minutes each. A tapping or knocking noise will be heard during the imaging process. An intercom allows the patient and technologist to communicate with each other at any time during the study. Depending on the number of images necessary, the study will generally take 20-30 minutes. You will be asked not to move during each sequence while breathing normally.

Depending upon the study, a contrast material (gadolinium) may be injected intravenously in an arm vein. This material will enhance certain tissues or blood vessels, making them more conspicuous and aiding diagnosis.