

Keeping you and your family safe during your visit:

Wear your hospital ID bracelet while you are at the hospital.

Let us know if you:

- Have had a fall in the last year.
- Require a cane, walker, crutch or wheelchair.
- Feel confused, dizzy, or might lose your balance.

We are happy to provide any assistance you need.

Use hand sanitizer from the stations provided to help promote infection control.

Help us create a barrier free environment by identifying any entry, exit or services we provide, that may limit your accessibility.

Ask for our free interpretation services or free captioning service apps available to use on your smartphone if you are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing.

We take pride in providing equal care for all. With your help, we can improve our service and provide a safer healthcare environment. During your visit:

- Let us know how we are doing.
- Tell us if we can provide better care for you.
- Ask us questions about anything you don't understand.

Form 300372 (05/2023)

Birchmount hospital

3030 Birchmount Road
Scarborough, ON M1W 3W3
416-495-2400

Centenary hospital

2867 Ellesmere Road
Scarborough, ON M1E 4B9
416-284-8131

General hospital

3050 Lawrence Avenue East
Scarborough, ON M1P 2V5
416-438-2911



@SHNcares



SHN.ca

SHN DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

A guide for patients and families



What Is Magnetic Resonance Imaging?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is an advanced imaging tool that uses both magnetic fields and radio waves to image the human body. MRI does not use ionizing radiation (x-rays). MRI is especially useful in imaging the brain, spinal cord, musculoskeletal system, breast, abdomen, pelvis and other soft tissue areas. It can also be used to evaluate many blood vessel disorders by using special imaging techniques known as magnetic resonance angiography (MRA). In many cases, it can provide high anatomical detail in imaging the body, and can detect a wide variety of diseases.

Important precautions:

Because a strong magnet is used in an MRI scan, there are certain metallic objects and mechanical devices that cannot enter the exam room. This includes some implants. Staff will take extra precautions to ensure you don't have any of these. You must tell us if you have *ever*:

- Had a metal injury to your eye
- Had any surgery; and/or
- Had any implanted medical devices, such as a pacemaker

What should I expect?

A Technologist will explain, prepare and position you on the scanning table, moving the body part to be examined into the centre of the scanner.

The inside of the scanner is well lit and open on each end and makes very loud knocking noises while obtaining images. You will be given hearing protection to wear during the exam.

The exam takes anywhere from 15 minutes to one hour depending on the area being imaged. When the test is finished, you are free to go. The radiologist will interpret the images and send a report to your physician.

What is Gadolinium?

Sometimes abnormalities can be difficult to see and an injection of Gadolinium (contrast medium) may help to better visualize internal body structures. Gadolinium is considered very safe and side effects are extremely rare. If you have any concerns, you can discuss them with us at any time.

What if I'm claustrophobic?

Some patients may experience claustrophobia or anxiety within the MRI scanner. If you require sedation, your physician must give you a prescription prior to your appointment date. You must bring someone with you if you plan on taking sedation, as you will not be allowed to drive home.

What if I'm pregnant?

Please inform us prior to your appointment if you are pregnant, as we may need to further assess whether or not to perform your MRI.

How do I prepare for an MRI?

Abdominal and Pelvic MRI: Do not eat or drink anything four hours prior to your exam

Breast and Cardiac MRI: Do not eat or drink anything two hours prior to your exam

Paediatric Sedation Patients: A Child Life Specialist will help and provide you with the preparation instructions.

Medication can be taken with sips of water

All other MRI examinations:
No preparation necessary

Exam appointments

We will do our best to accommodate appointments at the hospital closest to your home or work, however, factors such as body part being examined, scan type, body weight and body habitus may determine at which hospital your appointment will be scheduled.