

MRI EXPECTATIONS

Objective: To accurately lay out expectations when getting an MRI at VSON

What to expect upon getting imaging at VSON

Vail-Summit Orthopaedics and neurosurgery offices provide Xray imaging and MRI scans for evaluating injuries and conditions in your body.

- Getting an MRI is a noninvasive, diagnostic tool that uses a strong magnetic field and radiofrequency (RF) waves to produce images of the inside of your body. The scans are very safe, and there is no ionizing radiation exposure.
- Getting an Xray is a noninvasive diagnostic tool that uses very low radiation to visualize bony anatomy.

IMAGING SYSTEMS

- MRI system in EDW
 - 1.5T GE standard bore
- MRI system in Frisco
 - 1.5T Canon Wide bore and short bore
- XR system in EDW and Frisco
 - Canon Omnera 500A fully automated DR system
- XR system in Vail
 - Quantum manual system with Retro fitted Konica DR system.

Preparing for an MRI scan AND what to expect:

Scheduling

- Please inform your MRI scheduling representative if you have ANY kind of metal or implants in your body from ANY kind of surgery to include, but not limited to, cardiac, brain, orthopaedic, abdominal, etc-ANYTHING.
- There are some ABSOLUTE contraindications specific to VSON (ie: pacemaker, defibrillator, some Brain Aneurysm clips, among others).
- Implants that are conditional to MR and cases where you would need to provide your implants' MRI compatibility, are things like: cardiac STENT, mechanical valve, Cardiac devices like loop recorders, Spinal Cord Simulator devices etc.
 - Please be sure to provide a copy of the information for our records.
- If you have EVER had metal in your eyes (even if it was removed), it is possible we will need orbit x-rays for clearance.

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- Most MRI scans are scheduled for 45 minutes each. It will be longer if there are multiple areas. If you are having 3 or more scans done, you may need to consider scheduling them on separate days.
- If you are claustrophobic, please inform your ordering doctor, and the tech. There are medications that can be prescribed for a more pleasant experience. Additionally, you will need to have someone available to drive you the day of your exam. Please keep in mind; we will do everything we can to keep you as comfortable as possible
- If you are on medications, you may continue to take them as prescribed. If you have pain medication, you should also take these so your exam will be more comfortable, as you will NEED to be STILL during the entire exam.
 - **Contrast**
 - In some cases, we may need to inject contrast. For more specifics refer to the Contrast information sheet.
 - VSON uses Mulithance and Prohace, which are Class II agents and are proven safe and effective.
 - If you have concerns or questions, please ask the tech at the time of scheduling.
 - Contrast studies will take longer as they require an injection, and before and after pictures.
 - **What to wear and NOT wear**
 - You may wear ONLY cotton, street clothes, as long as they do NOT contain any metallic components to include but not limited to, zippers, snaps, buttons, under wire, metallic thread, clasps etc. Your MRI tech will evaluate upon arrival and provide shorts and/or a gown, if needed.
 - You will also need to remove things like jewelry, piercings, glasses, medication patches, dentures, loose change, wallets, bank or credit cards, wigs, etc. for which a secure locker space will be available.
 - **Once you arrive**
 - It is appreciated to arrive at least 15 mins prior to your exam.
 - You will need to fill out forms related to MRI that will ask you questions regarding metal or other implants in your body. If you arrive and have something that we need to research your appointment will need to be rescheduled.
 - If you arrive later than 15 mins for your scheduled exam you will need to be rescheduled. In some cases, it may be up to the tech!
 - When ready to enter the scan room for your MRI, you will be asked to lie on the table either head or feet first depending on the type of exam. The table will then move you (body part of interest) to the center of the magnet.
 - Once you are positioned appropriately the tech will leave the room and communicate via intercom.

- Once the scan begins, you will hear loud knocking noises as you are being scanned. Due to the loud noises, you will be given earplugs and/or ear muffs to wear.
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