

Breast MRI with Contrast- to evaluate abnormalities of the breast

****Breast Implant MRI to evaluate for Implant Rupture do not need IV contrast.

What happens before the exam begins?

- You will be asked to read and sign a consent form, fill out a questionnaire and provide other clinical or personal information.
- You will change into the hospital gown provided.
- An I.V. is inserted into a vein in your hand or arm.
 - Exception-No IV needed for silicone implant rupture work-up

What happens during the exam?

An **intravenous catheter** (or I.V., a tiny tube inserted into a vein) will be placed in your arm ahead of time for the purpose of injecting the contrast agent. If your veins are difficult to find please let the MRI scheduler know before the day of the exam.

The procedure involves your being placed **on your stomach on a table**; your breasts will be placed in depressions in the scanning table that house the breast coils (the equipment used to detect the magnetic resonance signal). The MRI Technologist will use blankets, pillows and special cushions to make you comfortable. The table will then be moved into an open tube-like device containing the magnet. You will be asked to remain quiet, breath normally and lie still on your stomach inside the magnet. Ear plugs will be given to you to reduce the noise level; however you will still be able to have verbal communication with the technologist over the intercom. **You will be asked to remain still** for up to 45 minutes while magnetic resonance imaging of both breasts is performed.

- It is very important that you stay still while the pictures are being taken. The ability to use the images for diagnosis depends on this.

After an initial series of images, you will receive an injection into a vein of about 20ml (4 tablespoons) of Gadolinium, a non-radioactive contrast agent that is essential in visualizing potentially suspicious areas within your breast. An additional series of images will be acquired after the injection. **The imaging session will take approximately one hour and the total exam duration is 1½ hours**, to allow for changing into hospital garments, answering questions and signing consent forms.

What happens after the exam?

Once the entire exam is over, the table will move out of the magnet and the MRI Technologist will remove the I.V. and help you off the table. You are then free to change. Please call your referring physician for the report results.