

## **Breast MRI**

Your doctor has ordered a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exam of your breasts. MRI uses a strong magnet and radio waves, rather than x-rays, to produce detailed pictures of the inside of the breast.

### **Why do I need a breast MRI?**

We suggest a breast MRI for many reasons.

- High risk screening – strong family history of breast cancer, breast cancer gene mutation carriers, or women with a history of radiation to their chest
- Known cancer – to figure out the size of the known cancer and if there are any other problems in either breast that we need to look at further
- To see how well you respond to chemotherapy
- To look at breast implants

You may want to check your health insurance to make sure they will cover the breast MRI.

### **How does breast MRI show problems in the breast?**

Breast MRI finds abnormal spots that take up contrast (dye). We can see these spots even in a breast with very dense tissue.

### **Before Your Breast MRI**

We will ask if you have any metal in your body or implanted devices. The magnet used is very strong and patients with some types of metal or medical devices cannot have an MRI.

We will review your medicines and allergies.

If you are afraid of small spaces, talk to your doctor. Your doctor can give you some medicine that will help you relax, but you will need someone to drive you home.

We will talk to you about your menstrual cycle. If you have not gone through menopause and have a screening or follow-up MRI, it is best if you are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of your cycle. Hormone changes at other times during your cycle can affect how breast tissue looks with MRI.

If you have just been diagnosed with breast cancer you may be scanned at any time, no matter where you are in your cycle.

### **The Day of Your Breast MRI**

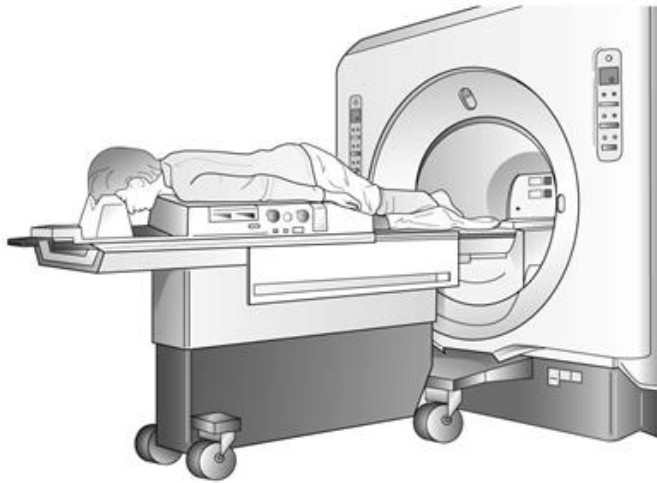
Do not eat anything 2 hours before your MRI. This will help prevent nausea related to the contrast (dye). If you are diabetic or need to eat, please call us before your MRI to discuss.

We will ask you to change into a gown and make sure that you remove all metal items (jewelry, zippers, hair clips, etc). There is a secure locker for your clothes and other items.

We will start an IV to give you contrast (dye) during the scan.

### **During the Exam**

You will lie face down on the table with a slight incline. We will place your breasts into a special coil on the table. We use this coil to make the image.



### **Who to Call**

UW Health Breast Center at the Clinical Sciences Center (Highland Avenue) during normal working hours: **608-266-6400**

UW Health Breast Center at 1 S Park Street during normal working hours: **608-287-2933**

You will go into the MRI tube feet first. The table will move into the MRI machine and you will be completely inside the machine.

You will need to be very still during the exam. We will give you a call light to press if you have any trouble.

As we take the images, you will hear a series of loud knocking and buzzing sounds.

We will inject the dye into the IV at a certain time during the scan. You may feel coolness at the IV site and in the arm. This is normal.

The exam takes about 30 minutes. After the exam, we will remove the IV from your arm and you can change into your clothes and go home.

If you are a patient receiving care at UnityPoint – Meriter, Swedish American or a health system outside of UW Health, please use the phone numbers provided in your discharge instructions for any questions or concerns.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 7/2020. University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#5939