

## What are the risks?

**There is little to no risk associated with MRI for most patients.** Unlike CT or general x-ray exams, no ionizing radiation is involved with an MRI exam.

**However, there are precautions that must be taken** to ensure your safety, and the safety of those in the MRI room. This includes a thorough screening process.

The following are situations when an MRI exam should not be performed:

- Pacemaker or defibrillator
- Brain aneurysm clips
- Metallic foreign body in the eye

If any of the following apply to you, more information will be required before you can have an MRI exam:

- Artificial heart valve
- Coronary or vascular Stent/Catheter or embolism coil
- Middle ear prosthesis or cochlear implant
- Electrical stimulator for nerve, bone or brain
- Orthopedic device or metallic prosthesis
- Surgery within the past eight weeks
- History of metallic foreign body in the eye
- Gunshot, shrapnel, BB or metallic fragments
- Breast tissue expander
- Pregnancy

## Your appointment details:

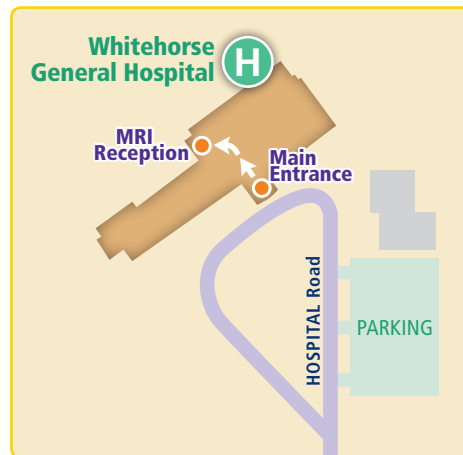
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_

Please arrive at Whitehorse General Hospital  
**30 minutes prior to your appointment time.**

### Where to go:

Check in for your appointment at the **MRI reception** located **to the left of the main atrium.**



5 Hospital Road, Whitehorse, Yukon

**MRI phone: 867-393-8855**

**MEDICAL IMAGING main phone: 867-393-8738**

### How to prepare:

For more information about MRI and how to prepare for your exam, visit [www.yukonhospitals.ca](http://www.yukonhospitals.ca)



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# Information about Yukon's MRI Program

Cover photo: www.archbould.com



whitehorse  
general hospital

**Medical Imaging Department**

**Your physician has requested an MRI exam for you. You may be wondering what this is and how it works.** This pamphlet provides some basic information about the exam. If you would like more detailed information, your physician or the MRI staff at WGH will be happy to help.

## What is an MRI?

MRI is an abbreviation for **Magnetic Resonance Imaging**. MRI is an advanced, state-of-the-art test that uses a very powerful magnet and pulses of radio waves to make images of the body.

## How is it different from other tests like x-ray?

While x-ray machines produce detailed images of dense materials (like bones), MRI is better for producing images of soft tissues, like muscles, ligaments and tendons.

**There are many reasons to use MRI** such as neurological, musculoskeletal, cardiovascular and oncological investigations, but the test may also be done to provide additional information about an issue seen during a CT, x-ray or ultrasound exam. MRI exams are widely used in hospitals for medical diagnosis, staging of disease and for follow-up.

## What can I expect during my MRI exam?

**Upon arriving at the MRI suite**, you will be greeted by our friendly and knowledgeable staff. You will be required to change into a hospital gown and remove any/all objects that are not permitted in the MRI room. This includes all metallic, magnetic, electronic and mechanical implants, devices or objects. Your items will be securely locked for the duration of your exam. Once inside the MRI room, you will be asked to lie down on the bed, which will then slowly move into the machine. The MRI exam will take approximately 30-90 minutes depending on what exam your physician has ordered.

Throughout the entire exam, the MRI machine will make various loud thumping sounds. Music or earplugs will be given to muffle the noise and help you be more comfortable and relaxed.

Depending on your physician's order, a contrast injection through an IV may be necessary to help better visualize the area being imaged.

## How do I prepare for my MRI?

- Bring your health care card
- Arrive 30 minutes before your appointment time
- Do not wear any jewelry/leave all valuables at home
- Continue to take prescribed medications as normal unless otherwise advised by your physician
- For some exams you may be required to fast for 4-8 hours. Unless you are told otherwise, continue to follow your normal diet.

## When will I receive my results?

Once the MRI exam is completed, a radiologist will review the images and provide a written report of the MRI exam findings to your physician.

This usually takes a few days, depending on the clinical urgency of your MRI exam. Your physician will then review the results with you at your next scheduled appointment.

