Your MRI exam

Your Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) exam at Via Radiology is a safe, painless and noninvasive procedure that uses magnetic fields, radio waves and a powerful computer to produce exceptional images of body structures.

MRI is usually the preferred diagnostic imaging method for evaluating the brain, spine, joints, soft tissues and bones. It has the advantage of avoiding radiation exposure, while advancing the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

We use the state-of-the-art Siemens Magnetom Espree™ MRI, because it provides the ideal combination of comfort and high image quality.

Many people ask about “open MRI.” While feeling less closed in, open-style scanners may compromise image quality and potentially reduce diagnostic accuracy, due to their weaker magnetic field strength. Many physicians prefer the image quality obtained on high-field strength, cylinder-type MRI scanners.

The Espree™ is a high-field (1.5 Tesla) cylinder-type scanner with a wider-than-average tube opening. The distance between your face and the top of the magnet is actually greater than that of many open-style magnets. The scanner is also designed to be quieter, faster and more comfortable than similar equipment.

Before your exam

For your exam, please wear loose and comfortable clothing. Once you arrive, you may be asked to change into the appropriate clothing for your exam, since metal objects, including jewelry and eyeglasses, may interfere with the quality of your study. The strong magnetic field used in MRI will pull on most metal objects and may damage electronic items. Keys, wallets, watches and cell phones should be removed and can be secured in a lockable space.

For your safety and comfort, it is important for us to know in advance if you are or could be pregnant. Additionally, please inform the staff if you have:

- Aneurysm clips
- Cardiac pacemaker
- Defibrillator
- Inner-ear implants
- Neurostimulator
- Metallic or foreign bodies in or near the eye.

During your exam

During your MRI scan, you will be comfortably positioned on a padded table that will slide into the scanner. You will be asked to lie as still as possible to maintain image quality. The procedure is painless and will on average last 30 to 45 minutes, depending on the extent of the study being performed. For your added comfort, the scanner is well-lit and has a two-way communication system that allows your technologist to see and hear you at all times.

After your exam

You may resume your normal activities. A radiologist will read and interpret the findings of your examination and provide your physician with a detailed report. Your referring physician will discuss the results with you.
Via Radiology

Via Radiology is a team of board-certified, subspecialty trained physicians and caring staff who are dedicated to providing the highest quality diagnostic imaging and imaging guided therapeutic procedures in the Puget Sound Region. By merging advanced technology, uncompromising professional standards, and a patient-focused approach, we provide our patients safe, accurate and appropriate care, and our referring medical professionals with expert radiologic consultations.

Location

We are in the Meridian Pavilion, 11011 Meridian Avenue N., Suite 101, on the Northwest corner of Meridian Avenue N. and Northgate Way. Plenty of free, on-site parking is available at our convenient location.

Driving directions

From the North:
- I-5 Southbound
- Exit at Northgate Way/1st Ave. NE, Exit 173
- Take the Northgate Way Westbound ramp
- Turn right onto N. Northgate Way
- Continue thru the first light, which is the intersection of Northgate Way and Meridian Avenue N.
- Immediately after the light turn right into the parking garage for Meridian Pavilion.

From the South:
- I-5 Northbound
- Take the Northgate Way/1st Ave. NE, Exit 173
- Turn left onto 1st Ave. NE
- Turn left onto N. Northgate Way
- Continue straight thru two lights until you reach the intersection of Northgate Way and Meridian Avenue N.
- Immediately after the light turn right into the parking garage for Meridian Pavilion.

From Highway 99/Aurora Ave N.:
- Turn East on North 105th Street, which becomes Northgate Way
- Drive 0.6 miles
- Immediately before the intersection of Meridian Avenue N. and Northgate Way, turn left into the parking garage for Meridian Pavilion.