

SPINE WEST

Physiatry & Sports Physicians

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Trust • Care • Excellence

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WHAT TO EXPECT: MRI SCAN

What can I expect before my MRI exam?

- There is little preparation for an MRI exam. Take your daily medications as you normally would, unless instructed otherwise.
- Please use the restroom prior to that start of your appointment.
- Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your exam and check in with the receptionist. You will need to complete the MRI screening form, which is available on our website at www.SpineWest.com.
- If your clothes have any metal fasteners or metallic design, you will be asked to change into a gown or shorts. You will also need to remove your cell phone, wallet, belt, jewelry, keys or any other metal objects. A locker will be supplied to secure your belongings.
- A technologist will verify your identification and the requested exam. Your screening form will be reviewed by the technologist in consultation with the radiologist if indicated.

What can I expect during my MRI scan?

- The most important thing for the patient to do is to relax and lie still. Most MRI exams take between 45 and 60 minutes to complete depending on the body part imaged and how many images are needed.
- You will be asked to remain still during the time the imaging takes place.
- During the actual imaging, you will hear a normal loud intermittent banging noise. You will be provided with earplugs to minimize the noise during the procedure.

What can I expect after my MRI scan?

- Once the entire MRI examination is completed, the pictures will be looked at by a radiologist, a specially-trained physician who is able to interpret the scans for your doctor. The radiologist will send your doctor a report. You should contact your doctor to go over your results and discuss your next step.
- If a Spine West provider has ordered your MRI, please schedule a MRI follow-up appointment, with the receptionist, to review the results.

Please call us with any questions or concerns at 303-494-7773