

SPINE WEST

Physiatry & Sports Physicians

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MRI INFORMATION SHEET

Information for Patients and their Families

What is magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)?

MRI, or magnetic resonance imaging, is an imaging exam that is a helpful diagnostic tool. Spine West uses an advanced cutting edge open-sided MRI to examine the spine and joints (i.e., knee, shoulder, elbow, wrist, hip, and ankle/foot). MRI does not use radiation but requires specialized equipment that uses a magnetic field and a computer to create pictures of internal body structures.

Open-Sided MRI vs. Closed-Sided MRI

- Closed-Sided MRI's are enclosed machines that are "tube" shaped, whereas Open-Sided MRI's are designed so patients are not completely enclosed
- Open-Sided MRI's have significantly less noise
- MRI's are proven safe technologies in healthcare settings

Patient Safety Tips Prior to the Procedure in Radiology / Contraindications

Because of the strong magnetic field used during the exam, certain conditions may prevent you from having a MRI procedure. When scheduling your appointment and prior to your exam, please alert our staff and technologist to the following conditions that may apply to you. Please note: these conditions do not necessarily preclude you from receiving an MRI.

- Pacemaker
- Pregnancy
- History of kidney problems
- Skin tattoos
- Neurostimulators (TENS-unit)
- Implanted drug infusion device (i.e., insulin pump)
- Exposure of metal fragments to your eye
- Artificial heart valves
- Aneurysm clips
- Cochlear implants
- Metallic implants and prosthesis
- Vascular stent or stent graft
- History as a metal worker
- Shrapnel or bullet wounds
- Dorsal column stimulators
- Allergy to iodine, or gadolinium
- History of diabetes
- Other conditions you believe to be relevant

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