

PATIENT'S INFORMATION about MRI

Dear patient,

the magnet resonance tomography (MRT) is the most modern picture-giving way of examination. It doesn't use x-rays. Produced by using a strong magnetic field the pictures of the body inside are more precise and more expressive than those one gets using ultrasound or CT.

Your preparation for the examination

Please leave all metal parts including all jewellery as well as your purse, magnet cards (e.g. credit cards), coins, keys etc. in the cabin because for the examination a strong magnetic field is used which might be disturbed by the metal parts.

What will happen during the examination?

At the beginning of the examination you will be positioned in the camera tube (=gantry) by the medical-technical assistant. This camera tube may appear to you narrow and uncomfortable but we can assure you that this procedure of acquiring information via this admission tube is much more agreeable than the procedures that were used in the past (e.g.: vascular punctures).

Only about 5% of the patients suffer from claustrophobia. If you belong to this group of patients you can get a sedative injection before the examination. Then in most cases the examination will be tolerated easily. The examination starts with some gentle knocks. During this process the device determines your individual electromagnetic body qualities. According to the results the device will adapt to your body. The following sequences of knocks are much louder and more rhythmical. Because of the partly extreme sound volume you will get ear stoppers or earphones to protect your ears. The rhythmical knocks originate from oscillations of the so-called gradient reels which build up and diminish small magnetic fields in quick change. During the rhythmical knocks you should lie absolutely still, because even the smallest movement can cause a deterioration of the image quality. Between the single sequences there are breaks which in a few cases may last several minutes. During these breaks the doctor will have a look at the pictures to decide which other sequences are still to be planned.

