

# MRI scan



## What is an MRI and how does it work?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a diagnostic tool that provides cross-sectional images, similar to a CT scan. The MRI machine creates a magnetic field aligning the hydrogen protons in the body. Radio frequencies are used to momentarily adjust protons within the body and transmit a signal to the computer. The computer processes the data to produce diagnostic images from inside your body. The high field strength and advanced technology available at Iowa Radiology provide excellent image quality of the body's soft tissues.

## What happens during your MRI exam?

Our MRIs afford more comfort and much less claustrophobia than early MRI systems. The technologist will ask you to lie down on the scanning table. During the test, the MRI will make a rapid tapping noise. Some exams may require an injection of contrast material into a vein in the arm. Please plan 60-90 minutes of total clinic time. This will allow us the time necessary to collect your patient history and perform any additional tests if needed. Your scan time is typically 40 minutes, during which time the only requirement is for you to relax and remain still. Iowa Radiology offers a wide bore MRI technology for your comfort. For extreme cases of claustrophobia, your physician may order IV conscious sedation.

### Iowa Radiology MRI Reminder



In Partnership With



**UnityPoint Health**  
Des Moines

Exam: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**515-226-9810 • IowaRadiology.com**



## What do I need to do prior to my MRI?

In most cases, you can follow your everyday activities, unless specified differently by your doctor. Some insurance companies require a preauthorization prior to an MRI scan. Please check with your insurance company.

## What contraindications do I need to be aware of?

If you are pregnant, have had an aneurysm clip, have had ear or eye prosthesis, or have a pacemaker, you may not be a candidate for an MRI exam.

Some MRIs require intravenous contrast. If you have diabetes, the history of vascular disease or have (or had) renal insufficiency we may not be able to inject you with the gadolinium based contrast. Please inform your physician if you have any of these contraindications.

## What if I have additional questions?

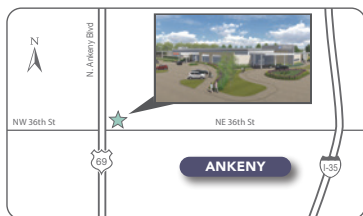
Please contact us at **515-226-9810**.

Check out our website at **[IowaRadiology.com](http://IowaRadiology.com)**.



**Clive Office:** 12368 Stratford Drive, Ste. 300 • Clive, IA 50325

**From I-80,** Exit west onto University Avenue. Turn north onto 124th Street. We are the second building on the east side of the road.



**Ankeny Medical Park:** North Ankeny Medical Park, 3625 N. Ankeny Blvd., Suite H., Ankeny, Iowa 50023

**From I-35,** Exit west on 36th St. (exit # 94). Go west approximately 1½ miles and turn right (north) into the Unity Point Ankeny Medical Park. We are located inside of the Ankeny Medical Park on the northeast corner of Ankeny Blvd. and 36th Street.