

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Magnetic resonance imaging uses a strong magnetic field to view internal organs and structures in the body. It can be used to diagnose problems with uterine fibroids and also to screen for breast cancers in high risk patients. It is also used before breast cancer surgery to assist the surgeon in planning the proper surgery.

During an MRI, the patient is positioned on a table that slides through a tube containing the magnet. A computer processes signals reflected from the body's tissue, creating a picture that is interpreted by the Radiologist. Contrast dye is usually injected into a vein prior to the MRI to better visualize the blood vessels.

There is no pain or radiation from the procedure. A mild sedative may be prescribed for patients with claustrophobia (anxious in small spaces). A small fan blows cool air through the scanner during the procedure. The scanner produces a "knocking" noise as it scans.