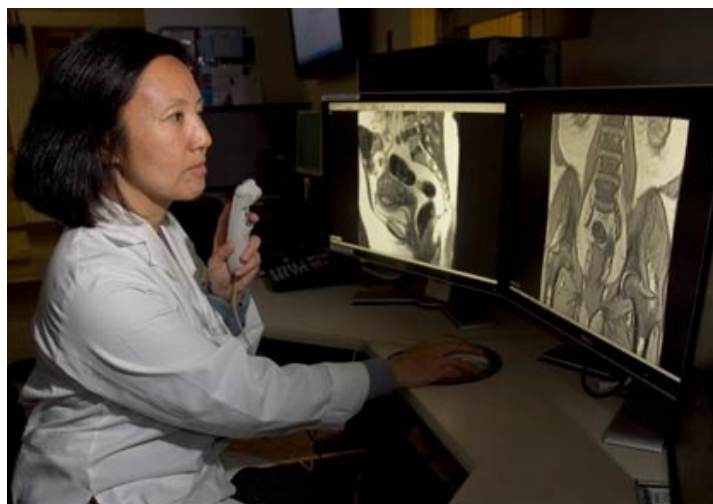




MRI Safety During Pregnancy

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

If you are pregnant and your doctor wants to perform a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exam, there is a possibility that your doctor is concerned about your health or the health of your baby.



Illness during pregnancy

In general, doctors try to delay treating a medical problem, if possible, until after pregnancy. Therefore, if your doctor orders an MRI during your pregnancy, he/she is trying to address a potentially urgent or serious illness.

Why do you need an MRI?

Your doctor may order an MRI if you have symptoms that require treatment or exam results that need clarification but cannot wait until after the delivery of your baby.

There are many reasons why you may need an MRI, but your doctor can explain the type of information he/she is seeking from the exam. You should inquire about your doctor's concerns and the need for this medical imaging exam.

Ultrasound is the most commonly used imaging exam during pregnancy. It usually focuses on the baby in the womb. However, when ultrasound does not provide a clear answer, or if other parts of your body need to be imaged, an MRI is usually performed.

MRI does not use x-rays. It uses radio waves and a powerful magnet to acquire images.

Over the last 30 years, thousands of pregnant women have had MRI exams, and no one has found any harm to the baby.

What to expect during the MRI exam?

Your exam will focus on imaging a particular body part, such as the baby in the pelvis, the brain or the spine. Scanning time varies depending on the body part being imaged; however, most exams will require that you lie still for 20 to 40 minutes.

Contrast material

For some MRI exams, a contrast material called gadolinium will need to be injected into a vein in the arm.

While contrast material sometimes improves the MRI images, during pregnancy the exam will typically be performed without contrast material, and a radiologist (a doctor with expertise in medical imaging) will review the images. Contrast material will be used for the exam only if it is necessary to answer your doctor's question.

MRI during pregnancy

In the end, the most important factor in having a healthy baby is ensuring a healthy mom, because the baby depends on mom to stay well and carry her pregnancy through.

Disclaimer

This information is copied from the RadiologyInfo Web site (<http://www.radiologyinfo.org>) which is dedicated to providing the highest quality information. To ensure that, each section is reviewed by a physician with expertise in the area presented. All information contained in the Web site is further reviewed by an ACR (American College of Radiology) - RSNA (Radiological Society of North America) committee, comprising physicians with expertise in several radiologic areas.

However, it is not possible to assure that this Web site contains complete, up-to-date information on any particular subject. Therefore, ACR and RSNA make no representations or warranties about the suitability of this information for use for any particular purpose. All information is provided "as is" without express or implied warranty.

Please visit the RadiologyInfo Web site at <http://www.radiologyinfo.org> to view or download the latest information.

Note: Images may be shown for illustrative purposes. Do not attempt to draw conclusions or make diagnoses by comparing these images to other medical images, particularly your own. Only qualified physicians should interpret images; the radiologist is the physician expert trained in medical imaging.

Copyright

This material is copyrighted by either the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), 820 Jorie Boulevard, Oak Brook, IL 60523-2251 or the American College of Radiology (ACR), 1891 Preston White Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4397. Commercial reproduction or multiple distribution by any traditional or electronically based

reproduction/publication method is prohibited.

Copyright © 2018 Radiological Society of North America, Inc.