



What is a breast MRI?

Breast MRI is sophisticated, non-invasive technology that uses a computer, magnetic field and radio waves to produce images of the soft tissues of the body.

Why do I need it?

MRI of the breasts has emerged as a new technique in the evaluation of breast disease. When used in conjunction with digital mammography and ultrasound, breast MRI can provide valuable information for the detection of breast disease. It does not replace mammography- it's a complementary procedure that provides additional information.

What are the risks of an MRI?

MRI has been shown to be extremely safe as long as proper precautions are taken with regard to metal objects. In general, the exam produces no pain, and produces no short-term or long-term damage. You are not exposed to radiation during this test.

How do I prepare?

Prior to the exam, a member of our radiology department will call you to discuss your specific medical history including verification of your last menstrual period. (Breast MRI should be performed during the first half of the menstrual cycle in order to get the best results.) The day of your exam, you will be asked to remove your jewelry, watch, hairpins, hearing aids, removable dental work, and glasses. Your hair should be free of hairspray or styling gel.

You should let the technologist know if you might be pregnant. **Also, if you are claustrophobic, check with your provider beforehand to see if a sedative is an option.**

What can I expect during the test?

After you change into a hospital gown, the technologist will have you lie on a table so that an IV line can be inserted. You will then be guided into a specialized breast coil. The technologist will make sure that you are comfortable and answer all your questions as the test is being performed.

You will be advised when the injection of contrast enhancement agent called gadolinium material will be given through the IV line. The gadolinium helps to highlight various structures in the breast tissue.

Since the MRI machine can be loud, you will be offered headphones and be allowed to select a type of music of your choosing. For test results, you should lie very still, relax and breathe normally. The entire exam takes 30-45 minutes.

How do I find out the results?

When the exam is over, you may be asked to wait until the images are reviewed to determine if more images are needed. A final report will be sent to your health care provider who will discuss the results with you.

To learn more about deNicola Breast Health Center and its comprehensive services, click [here](#).