

MRI with premedication for contrast allergy

Welcome to VCU Health MRI. We are located in the Gateway Building Basement, Main Hospital 3rd Floor, ACC Basement and North Hospital Ground Floor. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 10:30 pm, and Saturday and Sunday 7:00 am to 7:30 pm. Advanced scheduling is required for all MRI exams. Please review the following information about your test. Please call (804) 628-3580 to schedule your test or if you have any questions about your MRI exam.

What is it?

Imaging to look at various structures in the body with administration of gadolinium contrast, with premedication to avoid adverse reactions to the contrast agent.

Why are you having this test?

MRI is used to visualize various structures and tissue types within the body. Because it provides a high level of detail, an MRI is preferred for a wide variety of purposes. Your doctor has decided that an MRI is necessary to visualize a specific part of your body to determine whether pathology is present. You are having premedication for contrast allergy because you have had a prior reaction to the contrast agent, or have had other allergies in the past and are being premedicated as a precautionary measure.

Preparing for the test

- Take the premedication as per instructions from your doctor. General instructions are one dose 13 hours before appointment time, another dose 7 hours prior and another 1 hour prior.
- Take any other medications as prescribed.
- Bring a picture ID and insurance information.
- Bring information about any implants you may have inside your body.
- Please arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment.

What to expect during the test

- The test will take 30 minutes or more.
- If you have multiple MRI studies scheduled, they will take about 30 minutes each.
- You may or may not receive intravenous gadolinium contrast.
- If contrast is administered, a needle (IV) will be placed in a vein.
- You will lie down inside of a tube on a flat table for the duration of the exam.
- It is very important to hold still for the exam, or the pictures will not be readable.
- Contrast will be administered at some point during the scan.
- If you are claustrophobic, or have pain issues that may interfere with your ability to remain still throughout the MRI exam, talk to your doctor BEFORE scheduling your MRI.

After Care information

- You may return to all your normal activities.
- MRI contrast is expelled from the body through your urine. If you receive MRI contrast, drinking extra fluids may help the contrast leave your body faster.

Follow-up care after the procedure

- Results will be available in 1-2 business days.
- For Results: Please contact the physician that ordered your test.

For More Information:

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your procedure, please call the VCU Health Department of Radiology at (804) 628-3580.