

# MRI with Anesthesia

**Welcome to VCU Health MRI.** We are located in the Gateway Building Basement, Main Hospital 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 and/or without the administration of gadolinium contrast, with anesthesia or conscious sedation.

## 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 anesthesia because you or your doctor has determined that you will not be able to remain completely still throughout the MRI exam while conscious, whether due to claustrophobia, pain, or other considerations.

## Preparing for the test

- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight.
- You must bring a driver with you or the exam will not be performed.
- Discuss any medications that would normally be taken on the morning of the exam with your doctor.
- Bring a picture ID and insurance information.
- Bring information about any implants you may have inside your body.
- Please arrive 60 minutes before your scheduled appointment.

## What to expect during the test

- The Anesthesiologist will explain the anesthesia portion of the exam and have you sign a consent form.

- You may be asleep during the exam, or in a “twilight” state where you are not fully asleep, but sedated.
- The exam 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.
- A needle (IV) will be placed in a vein for anesthesia and/or contrast.
- 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 your test requires contrast.

## After Care information

- You will be taken to a recovery area to wake up from anesthesia
- The day of the exam, you should not drive or operate heavy machinery for the rest of the day.
- 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.