

# MRI with Vagal Nerve Stimulator (VNS)

**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. Special considerations are involved because of your VNS device.

## 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.

## Preparing for the test

- You must make an appointment with the Neurology Department to have the VNS turned off before, and turned back on after your MRI.
- Bring your information about the VNS.
- Take your 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

- Go to Neurology **BEFORE** MRI to have your VNS turned off.
- 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 your test requires contrast.
- If you are claustrophobic, or have pain issues that may interfere with your ability to remain still during the exam, talk to your doctor **BEFORE** scheduling your MRI.

## After Care information

- Go to the Neurology Department to have your VNS device turned back on.
- 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.