

MRI Cardiac

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?

Highly detailed imaging of the heart. Cardiac MRI is usually done with IV contrast, however in some cases it is not necessary.

Why are you having this test?

MRI is used to visualize the heart with a high level of detail. Cardiac MRI is used to detect the presence of cardiomyopathy, sarcoidosis, congenital anomalies, aortic aneurysm, pulmonary artery and vein pathology, and other cardiac issues.

Preparing for the test

- No patient preparation for routine MRI
- 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

- The test will take 60 minutes or more.
- You will most likely 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.
- You will be asked to hold your breath for 10-20 seconds at a time multiple times.
- You will need to hold your breath for some of the scans. Breath hold duration is usually 10-15 seconds.
- It is very important to hold still and hold your breath, 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 stay still, 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.