



# THE ORTHOPAEDIC GROUP, P.C.

## Patient Q&A

### **What does MRI stand for?**

Magnetic Resonance Imaging. MRI is NOT a type of x-ray. It involves the use of a strong magnetic field and radio frequency waves instead of x-ray radiation to take images inside the body. With the MRI, your doctor can view different structures within your body to help him diagnose what is wrong and decide the best course of treatment.

### **Why should I have my MRI exam done at The Orthopaedic Group, P.C.?**

At our facility, the addition of the GE Optima MR450w system provides fast, accurate imaging and delivers the best imaging experience possible to our patients. You have a more comfortable, open experience compared to old-style scanners that encompass your entire body. In fact, a lot of scans can be performed with your head outside of the magnet bore. Your comfort is very important to us.

### **Who takes care of scheduling my MRI?**

Your doctor at The Orthopaedic Group, P.C. will order your MRI. The clinical staff will inform you of the day and time of your scheduled exam.

### **Is an MRI painful?**

The process used to take MRI images is painless and generally doesn't take long, especially with our new GE Optima MR450w. The opening is wider, so it's much more comfortable. Since it's fast and accurate, cooperative patients are done quickly, with fewer repeat exams.

### **Are there risks associated with having a MRI?**

There are no known side effects associated with the non-invasive MRI. Therefore, a MRI is a low-risk procedure for most patients. Certain precautions, however, must be observed. If you have a pacemaker in your chest or aneurysm clips in your brain, you cannot have a MRI. Other devices can also pose certain risks. Please inform your doctor of any implanted devices in your body prior to having a MRI.

### **Is any special preparation needed for a MRI?**

No special preparation is needed for MRI exams done at The Orthopaedic Group, P.C. In some instances, it may be necessary to have an injection that helps show what's going on inside your body. Guidelines vary with the specific exam ordered by your doctor. You will be asked to remove all metal (earrings, watches, hair pins, etc.) and other items, such as credit cards, that can be erased by the strong magnetic field. You may wear clothing from home as long as it has no metal fasteners or zippers. If your clothing contains metal, you will be given appropriate clothing to change into for the exam.

### **How long can I expect to be in the MRI machine?**

With our advanced GE Optima MR450w, we can perform routine exams of the spine, knee, ankle and other joints in 15 to 20 minutes. More complex musculoskeletal studies can last from 20 to 40 minutes. Times vary according to the exam ordered. Your doctor may request extra images that can lengthen the exam, so please allow for extra time.

### **Is the scanner noisy?**

The magnet does make noise as images are being taken. The technologist will provide you with hearing protection in the form of earplugs or radio headphones if you prefer to listen to music. You can also bring a favorite CD to listen to while you are being scanned.

### **Will I be in the room by myself during the MRI?**

After positioning you in the magnet, the technologist will step outside of the scan room to begin the procedure. He or she can see and hear you at all times, so you are never really alone. You will be given a call button to use at any time to get the technologist's attention should it be necessary.

### **What happens if I move during my MRI?**

If you move during the exam, the images will be blurry and may not be diagnostic. The technologist will give instructions to you before beginning the procedure. The success of the exam depends on your cooperation.

**How soon can I expect to get my test results?**

It usually takes 24 hours to get the MRI results. Your doctor's nurse will give specific instructions about getting your results.

**If you have any other questions concerning your MRI at The Orthopaedic Group, P.C., please call us directly at 251-450-1270.** We are here Mon.–Fri., 7a.m. until 7p.m. and from 8a.m. until 3p.m. on Saturday.