



**Location:**  The MRI Center at Lawrenceville  
21 Lawrenceville-Pennington Road  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08619  
(609) 895-1500

The Imaging Center  
8 Quakerbridge Plaza Drive  
Mercerville, NJ 08619  
(609) 890-0033

## MRI With Contrast

---

### MRI – What is Magnetic Resonance Imaging?

An MRI is a test that uses a magnetic field and pulses of radio wave energy to make pictures of organs and structures inside the body. In many cases, an MRI creates an image of the inside of your body that is much clearer than what can be obtained with most other methods. You will not be exposed to any radiation, and the magnets and radio waves are harmless.

### Preparing for an MRI With Contrast

A staff member will explain the procedure and you will be asked to fill out an MRI questionnaire form. You can download the form and bring it with you or you can fill out the form before your procedure; your technologist can assist you with any of the questions.

1. There are no food or drink restrictions.
2. Continue to take any medication as directed by your doctor.
3. Inform your doctor if you are uncomfortable with confined spaces (claustrophobic) so he/she can prescribe a sedative or offer you an open MRI.
4. Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing, avoiding metals snaps and zippers, which can affect the image.
5. Hairspray should not be used and all cosmetics should be removed.
6. Please notify your technologist if:
  - You have a pacemaker, pace wires, neuron stimulator, or cochlear implants
  - You have metal splinters in your body
  - You have metallic fragments in your eyes due to an accident (even if the accident happened over 20 years ago)
  - Women should always inform the technologist if there is any chance of pregnancy
  - You have any serious allergies
7. Please remember to bring:
  - Your prescription
  - Your insurance card
  - Your referral (if needed)

### What to Expect During the Scan

1. To begin the exam, you will be asked to lie on the scan table and to remain very still.

2. When the machine starts to work, you'll hear some loud knocking sounds. Our facility provides ear plugs or headphones with music to help block out these sounds.
3. While you will be alone in the exam room, you are able to speak with the technologist through a two-way intercom at any time.
4. During some procedures, you will be given breathing instructions by the technologist.
5. Your technologist will inject you with a solution called a contrast agent. This allows the radiologist to see the image more clearly. MRI contrast agents typically have a few short-term side effects such as discomfort when the contrast is injected, a flushing sensation, and/or metallic taste which pass within a few minutes.
6. An MRI exam itself is completely painless and noninvasive. An exam usually takes about 30 minutes, but can vary between 15 minutes to no more than one hour.

### What to Expect After the Scan

If you received contrast, there may be some discomfort at the IV site. There are no after effects from having an MRI, and you may resume normal activity immediately. If you have taken a sedative, it is suggested that you have someone else drive you home. The contrast will naturally pass through your body within a day.

### About your Results

One of our board-certified radiologists will read the film, typically within 24 hours. Within 48 hours, a report will be sent to the ordering physician, as well as any other physician you may have requested. If you need to pick up your results, you may do so from our medical records departments or by email at [medicalrecords@qbradiology.com](mailto:medicalrecords@qbradiology.com).

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any further questions.