

## **How do I prepare for the test?**

You may be required to wear a special gown during the test or you may be allowed to wear your own clothes, as long as they are loose-fitting and do not have metal fasteners. Metallic objects can interfere with the magnetic field of the MRI scanner, so before you enter the scanner room you should have all metal removed from your clothing and body. You will need to remove:

- Jewelry, watches, pins, hairpins, metal zippers
- ATM and credit cards
- Hearing aids, dentures, eyeglasses
- Pens, pocket knives

Someone who has recently suffered a stroke may require help from a friend or relative to remove these items.

If you have an implanted defibrillator, cochlear (inner ear) implant, or have had a metal clip implanted in your brain to treat an aneurysm, you should not be scanned and should not enter an MRI exam room.

You should inform the technician if you have any of the following in or on your body because they may interfere with the scan or pose a risk:

- Stent implanted in the arteries of your brain or neck
- Intrauterine device (IUD)
- Artificial heart valves
- Implanted electronic device, including a heart pacemaker
- Artificial limb or metallic joint prosthesis
- Implanted nerve stimulators or drug infusion ports
- Tooth fillings, braces, metal pins, screws, plates, or surgical staples
- Metallic-based tattoos

You will usually be provided with a questionnaire that lists all potentially dangerous objects.

Tell your doctor if you are or may become pregnant, because the effects of an MRI on the fetus are not clear. If you are having a test that uses a contrast dye, be sure to tell your doctor if you have kidney problems or have ever had an allergic reaction to shellfish or to the contrast dye or

iodine.

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