Answers to your questions about breast MRI

You may be wondering...

What is MRI?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) uses a strong magnetic field to create detailed images of internal organs, bones and other structures within the body. These images can help physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions more effectively and precisely. MRI is painless, non-invasive and does not use radiation. Mammogram, ultrasound and clinical breast exams do not always provide all the information your provider needs therefore, breast MRI may be recommended.

How is the MRI procedure performed?

To begin you will be asked to change into MRI safe clothing after the MRI safety questions have been answered. Breast MRI requires the use of a contrast agent. This contrast will be administered by using an IV in either your arm or hand and this will be done prior to entering the scan room. Once in the scan room you will be asked to lie on your stomach onto a camera (coil) that will takes pictures with significant detail for the Breast Radiologists.

The breast MRI appointment takes 45 minutes however you are only in the machine for 25 minutes. **NOTE**: If you have silicone implants this requires additional images to be taken making the total time in the machine 35 minutes.
*Breast MRI is extremely sensitive to motion and requires you to remain completely still. Any motion may obscure the anatomy and information the Radiologist will use to make a diagnosis.*

During the exam you will hear a series of loud knocking noises. You will be given both ear plugs and headphones to protect your hearing. We also provide music (if you choose).

**Listen to MRI Sounds**
The technologist will stay in contact with you through an intercom system in between sequences. In the event that you wish to come out of the machine before the exam is complete you will be given a squeeze ball that alerts the technologist you need them.

**What do I do after the MRI?**
After the exam is complete you will be able to return to your daily activity without restrictions. The images obtained during the MRI will be sent to a special system where the Breast Radiologist will visualize color mapped images and time point graphs to aid in a diagnosis. The results will be sent to your referring provider who will go over the results with you.

At Elliot MRI, we know that having an MRI can be scary and confusing. We’re here to help and support you through the process, and we’re committed to providing you with the most up-to-date, accurate and reliable care available.

Elliot Health System is proud to offer this technology to better serve our patients.

[Click here to meet our team of Breast Radiologists.](#)
Elliot MRI at River’s Edge is accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR) in Breast Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

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