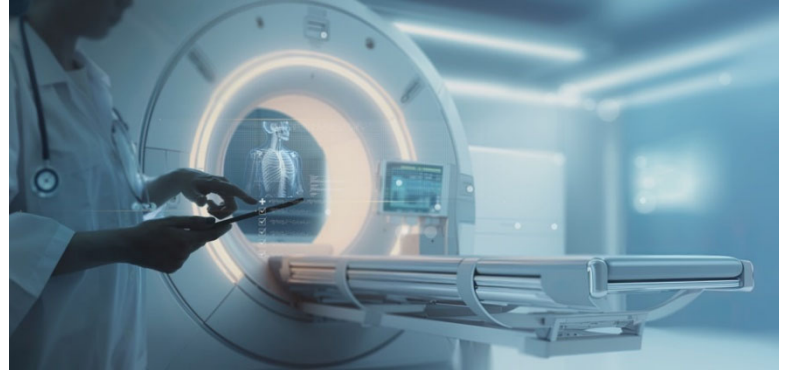


Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)



What is magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)?

An MRI is a type of diagnostic study that uses magnetic fields to create high resolution pictures of the cross-sectional anatomy of the area being studied. This provides one of the clearest pictures that can be given of the condition of soft tissue structures such as muscles, tendons, nerves, and ligaments.

What is an MRI used to diagnose in patients with peripheral nerve problems?

- Associated pathology which may be contributing to symptoms such as tendon and ligament tears, muscle injuries, and bone or joint damage.
- Masses and tumors either with in the nerve or adjacent to the nerve
- Changes in the structure of the peripheral nerve itself.

How is an MRI done?

During the MRI you will lie on a flat table with the MRI machine around the area of the body being studied. The machine does not touch you, but there may be a strap or support to hold the arm or leg still for more clear pictures. The machine makes a thumping sound as the magnetic coils inside the machine create the magnetic field that is used to reconstruct the pictures on the computer. It is important to try to stay as still as possible during the test to limit “fuzzy” areas in the picture. The amount of time that the MRI takes to complete depends on the type of study being performed but is typically 20-45 minutes.

How do I prepare for the test?

There is usually no prep for orthopaedic MRIs but you should make your provider aware if you have a pacemaker, implants, or other metal in your body. You will be asked to remove piercings and avoid wearing jewelry for the test.