

Frequently asked questions for research MRI studies

Can you have an MRI if you have fillings, retainers or braces on your teeth?

The metal in most fillings is not affected by the MRI system's magnetic field. However, the fillings may cause some distortion of the images of the brain or facial area. Can a subject have an MRI scan if they have a permanent retainer or braces on their teeth? The recommendation is not to scan a subject with retainers or braces because distortion can occur affecting the quality of the data.

Can a subject have make-up on for an MRI scan?

Some cosmetics contain metals that can interact with MRI magnets, so on the day of the MRI, if possible, ask your subject to not wear makeup (especially eyeshadow). Also, hairspray may contain metals that could interfere with the scan and reduce the quality of the images.

Can a subject wear deodorant for an MRI scan?

It is recommended to refrain from wearing any powder, perfumes, deodorant and/or lotions on your underarms and chest area prior to the procedure. This is to prevent the possibility of localized burns because these items may have metal in them.

Is titanium safe for MRI?

Titanium implants are MRI compatible. Subjects with nontitanium implants should inform the MRI safety officer 7 days prior to the procedure to check with the manufacture for condition that allow safely conducting an MRI scan.

What do you wear for an MRI?

If the subject's clothes have any metal fasteners or metallic design near the anatomy being scanned, you should ask the subject to change into a hospital gown. If the clothing is made of a stretchy material (clothing may have metal microfibers), the subject must change into a hospital gown as a precautionary measure of safety to prevent possible burns to the skin. Cotton/polyester is the safest clothing for subjects to wear.

Is it safe to have an MRI while pregnant?

For a research MRI study, pregnant subjects are excluded.

Are piercings safe for MRI?

It is the policy of the Imaging Research Center to remove all piercings before you scan your subject to avoid any possible burns due to heating of the metal used in the piercings. Also, piercings (e.g. earrings) will cause distortion to the image.

MRI-compatible implants

If a subject has an implant that is not listed below, it must be reviewed by the MRI safety officer before the subject can be scanned. Documentation (model, manufacturer, operative report) must be provided 7 days in advance of the scheduled scan to determine the conditions to safely scan a subject with implant(s). If documentation is not provided because of statute of limitations, MRI compatibility and safety will be determined on an individual basis.

The following implants do not need MRI Safety Officer approval:

- Dental implants (non-magnetic)
- Hernia mesh
- Mirena IUD
- Nexplanon implant for birth control
- Knee and/or hip replacement (must be at least 6 weeks post-op)
- Intraocular lens implant (for cataract)
- Dental permanent retainers (may cause distortion)
- Breast implants – saline or silicone