



Breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

Your doctor may recommend a breast MRI if you have certain cancer risk factors or as a way to help diagnose cancer. MRIs aren't a substitute for mammograms, but they provide additional information about breast cancer or other non-cancerous breast conditions.

Screening breast MRI

You may need a screening breast MRI if you have:

- ▲ A BRCA gene mutation
- ▲ A first-degree relative who is a BRCA gene carrier but you have not been tested
- ▲ A lifetime risk of breast cancer that is 20 – 25% or more as defined by specialized software
- ▲ Radiation to the chest between the ages of 10 and 30
- ▲ Li-Fraumeni syndrome in first-degree relatives
- ▲ Cowden and Bannayan-Riley-Ruvalcaba syndromes in first-degree relatives
- ▲ A history of breast cancer
- ▲ High risk for developing breast cancer as determined by a breast specialist
- ▲ A radiologist recommendation for imaging triangulation

Eligibility for an MRI

A breast MRI isn't right for everyone. If you have a pacemaker or some types of cochlear implants, you may not be eligible for a breast MRI. Your doctor will also screen you for kidney disease.

You'll need a blood test before a breast MRI if you have:

- ▲ A history of kidney disease as an adult or a family history of kidney problems
- ▲ A history of kidney transplant
- ▲ Diabetes
- ▲ Paraproteinemia syndromes or diseases, such as myeloma
- ▲ Collagen vascular disease, such as lupus
- ▲ Liver disease
- ▲ A contrast study within the past seven days
- ▲ Recent surgeries
- ▲ Sickle cell disease





What to expect

Breast MRIs require a physician order with the specific reasons for the test. It's also important to provide any past breast images and results.

If you are premenopausal and an MRI isn't urgent, your MRI should be scheduled for the second week of your menstrual cycle, ideally on days seven to 14. If you have had a recent breast cancer diagnosis, this guideline doesn't apply.

A breast MRI generally takes a minimum of 1.5 hours. In most cases, you can check with your physician one to two days after the procedure for the results.

Ready to care for you

If you have a breast health condition, our team offers complete care that's tailored to fit your needs. No matter the diagnosis, we're ready to help you get back to Better.



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