

Preparation for an MRI

Magnetic resonance is a sophisticated imaging test that does not use ionizing radiation (X-rays), but relies on magnetic fields to obtain diagnostic images.

Magnetic resonance is a very safe test, but there are some circumstances that make it impossible to perform.

When using powerful magnetic fields, if you are a carrier of some types of metal objects, you should not enter the room, as they could be displaced by the magnetic field. For this reason, **if you have a pacemaker, hearing aids, have had cardiac surgery, wear heart prostheses or have suffered eye injuries, inform your doctor.** In the radiodiagnosis service you will receive a complete questionnaire that you must complete before going to the ward

If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant, inform your doctor.

In some types of resonance a special contrast is injected (with gadolinium).

The magnetic resonance of the center is closed, that is, you have to enter the interior of the machine. Some people suffer from claustrophobia and fail to get tested. It is important that, if you have claustrophobia, inform your doctor, since the test lasts more than 20 minutes and it is necessary that you do not move. According to our experience, it is very rare for a patient not to tolerate the test due to claustrophobia.

If you are a carrier of prostheses, heart valves, pacemakers, implants or has been previously operated on, please take with you the reports available so that the radiologist can consult them on the day the test is to be performed. In some cases, this type of prosthesis or previous surgeries contraindicates the performance of an MRI study.



Contrasts in magnetic resonance

In magnetic resonance, special contrasts containing gadolinium are used. Gadolinium contrasts are very safe. The likelihood of an allergic reaction is very rare.

However, contrasts with gadolinium should not be used if you have kidney function problems, since in these cases the possibility of a rare entity (progressive systemic fibrosis) has been described.

For this reason, if you have kidney function problems, inform your doctor. The use of gadolinium contrasts in pregnant women is not recommended. If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, inform your doctor.

In the radiodiagnosis service you will be asked about this topic (and others related to magnetic resonance) and you will only be injected with gadolinium contrasts when there is certainty that they can be administered without risk to you.

If your MRI is performed with contrast, it is recommended that you go on an empty stomach (minimum of 6 hours fasting).

