

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Definition

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is the way of obtaining very detailed images of organs and tissues throughout the body without the need of x-rays. It uses a magnetic field and a computer to demonstrate whether or not there is an injury or disease process present.

MRI causes no pain and no known tissue damage of any kind.

How safe is an MRI?

The magnetic field will attract iron containing objects and may cause them to move suddenly and with extreme force. Care is taken to make sure that these types of objects are removed from the room. This also includes watches, jewelry, clothing with metallic threads or fasteners. It will also pull on metal in the body so it is important that the technologist knows about the presence of metal implants or material. Hearing aids, pacemakers or electrical stimulators may be damaged or malfunction. Metallic implants may cause distortion of the images but if the radiologist knows about it, allowances can be made when interpreting the images.

A contrast material called **gadolinium** may be used during MRI. Gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAs) may be contra-indicated for patients with kidney disease. It has been recommended by both the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the American College of Radiology that some patients be screened for kidney disease by the radiology center/provider.



2008 CPT™ CODING

CPT™ CODE	Body Part(s)
74181, 74182 (with contrast) or 74183 (without followed by with contrast)	Abdomen
73721, 73722 (with contrast) or 73723 (without followed by with contrast)	Ankle, knee, hip – Lower extremity joint
73218, 73219 (with contrast) or 73220 (without followed by with contrast)	Arm, hand, forearm, clavicle -- Upper extremity <u>not</u> joint
70551, 70552 (with contrast) or 70553 (without followed by with contrast)	Brain, including brain stem
73221, 73222 (with contrast) or 73723 (without followed by with contrast)	Elbow, wrist, fingers, thumb, shoulder, clavicular articulations – Upper extremity joint
73718, 73719 (with contrast) or 73720 (without followed by with contrast)	Leg, thigh, calf, foot -- Lower extremity <u>not</u> joint
70540, 70542 (with contrast) or 70543 (without followed by with contrast)	Orbit, Face and/or Neck
72141, 72142 (with contrast) or 72156 (without followed by with contrast)	Cervical Spine
72146, 72147 (with contrast) or 72157 (without followed by with contrast)	Thoracic Spine
72148, 72149 (with contrast) or 72158 (without followed by with contrast)	Lumbar Spine
72195, 72196 (with contrast) or 72197 (without contrast by with contrast)	Pelvis

SOURCES:

Current Procedural Terminology CPT™ 2008 Professional Ed.

<http://www.radiologyinfo.org>; <http://www.acr.org>

American Journal of Roentgenology:188, June 2007

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01638.html>



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