

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 if you are having a scan of the brain or facial area. Can I have an MRI exam if I have a permanent retainer or braces on my teeth? The recommendation is not to scan a subject with retainers or braces because distortion can occur that can affect the quality or the data.

Can you have make-up on for an MRI?

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. Also, minimize hairspray and forgo antiperspirants and sunscreens, which contain metals, that could interfere with the scan and reduce the quality of the images.

Can you put on antiperspirants for an MRI?

Please have your subject refrain from wearing any powder, perfumes, antiperspirants and/or sunscreens, which may contain metals prior to the study, just to be safe.

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 in close proximity to the anatomy being scanned, you should ask the subject to change into a hospital gown. If the clothing is made of a stretchy material, the subject must change into a hospital gown as a precautionary measure of safety to prevent possible burns to the skin. A locker will be supplied to secure their belongings.

Is it safe to have an MRI while pregnant?

For a research MRI study, pregnant subjects are excluded.

Is piercings safe for MRI?

It is the policy of the UCD IRC to remove all piercings before you scan your subject to avoid any possible burns due to heating of the metal used in the piercings. Piercings, if not removed, i.e. earrings, will cause distortion to the image.

Safety of frequently asked implant MRI compatibility:

If a subject has an implant it must be reviewed by the MRI safety officer before the subject can be scanned. **Written documentation** must be provided to determine the type of implant.

1. Hearing Aids and Other Hearing Systems

Unsafe.

2. Heart Valves and Annuloplasty Rings

Safe to scan at 3T or less (After Safety Officer approval).

3. Hemostatic clips, other clips, fasteners, staples

Safe at 3T or less (After Safety Officer approval).

4. IUDs and other contraceptive devices

Copper T and Copper 7

Safe at 1.5 T or less (After Safety Officer approval).

Copper T 380A (After Safety Officer approval).

Safe at 3T or less (After Safety Officer approval).

Stainless steel IUDs

Unsafe.

Mirena IUD

Safe (After Safety Officer approval).

Implanon implant

Safe (After Safety Officer approval).

Essure

Safe to scan at 3T or less (After Safety Officer approval).

5. Magnetically activated implants and devices

Unsafe.

6. Neurostimulation system

Unsafe.

7. Otologic Implants

Unsafe.

8. Penile Implants

Unsafe – Duraphase or Omniphase.

9. Pessary/Pessaries

Unsafe – metallic.

Safe – nonmetallic (After Safety Officer approval)

10. Orthopedic implants

Must check manufactures conditions for MRI safety.

My subject has an approval from his/her physician stating it is OK to have an MRI scan. Is it OK to scan my subject?

Even though a physician states it is OK to have an MRI, it still has to be approved by the MRI Safety Officer. Most physicians are not aware of the implant dangers with specific magnetic field strengths (1.5T or 3T) and the dangers that can occur. Additional safety precautions are taken to insure no injuries occur to the subject.