



# Bon Secours Breast MRI Information



## What to expect when having a Breast MRI:

- We look forward to taking care of you on your Breast MRI visit! Please read this paper so you will know what to expect, but do not hesitate to call us if you have any questions concerning your appointment.
- The radiologist who will read your MRI will need to compare the images with your prior mammograms. If your prior mammograms were not done at a Bon Secours facility, you will need to bring copies of the mammogram films and reports with you to your Breast MRI appointment. If you are unable to do so, we can get your films after your appointment, but it will delay the results of your Breast MRI.
- After arrival at your appointment, you will complete a registration process including demographics, insurance information if applicable, a medication list, and an MRI screening sheet. If you do not have insurance, you can apply for a Bon Secours Care Card for financial assistance. If you do not qualify, Bon Secours offers a self-pay discount and payment plan as well.
- The nurse or tech will take you to a private exam area to change into a gown & remove anything that is not MRI safe, such as hair pins, watch, jewelry, etc. You will be provided a locker for your things. They will also complete Breast MRI screening forms & a brief visual exam of your breasts for any scars, surgical wounds, moles, etc. that the radiologist will need to be aware of when interpreting your Breast MRI.
- An IV will be started in your arm so that MRI contrast (dye) can be given to you during the test. This is not the same dye that is used for CT scan. This contrast dye is called gadolinium. It contains no iodine. The contrast dye is an extremely important part of the Breast MRI exam and must be done in order for the radiologist to provide an accurate, thorough reading of your exam.
- The tech and/or nurse will assist in positioning you on the MRI table for the test. You will be lying on your stomach for the Breast MRI with your breasts hanging down into two holes cut out on the table. There will be some padding on the table, but be prepared that this is not usually an extremely comfortable position. We will do our very best to make you as comfortable as possible. Please see the picture to the right as an illustration of how you will be positioned on the table.
- The MRI machine is very loud. It makes banging, buzzing, and beeping noises throughout the exam. We will provide earplugs or headphones with music for you during your test. The Breast MRI usually takes between 30-45 minutes. However, if you have breast implants, this will be a bit longer as there are some additional pictures that need to be done.
- The most important part of the Breast MRI is keeping very still so that we can get the best possible pictures. We try not to talk to you during the exam because inadvertently you will lift your head when you respond which will move your breasts. We will give you a call bell to hold on to through out the exam in case you need us for any reason.
- Once the Breast MRI is finished, we will remove your IV and take you back to an area to get dressed.
- Your Breast MRI will be reviewed by one of our specialized Breast MRI Radiologists and a report will be issued to your doctor within 2-3 business days
- Remember- having a Breast MRI does not replace your annual mammogram. It is very important to continue to have a yearly mammogram, as well as any Breast MRI imaging your doctor recommends. We appreciate you trusting us with your care and strive to provide good help!

