

FIRST HILL DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

A Swedish Outpatient Imaging Center

MRI Prostate Imaging

Swedish First Hill Diagnostic Imaging utilizes “multi-parametric” imaging of the prostate which provides the clinician with both anatomical and functional information that is used to localize and stage prostate cancer.

You will be asked to fill out a brief medical history and an MRI safety form. Metal free clothing is provided and we ask that you empty your bladder just prior to the exam. We will start an IV and draw a blood sample to evaluate kidney function prior to the exam. Otherwise there is no preparation.

During the exam you will wear hearing protection because the scanner makes loud banging noises as it acquires the images. You will be asked to lie still during the imaging which will take about 45 minutes. IV contrast is given towards the end of the exam. The contrast generally does not cause any discomfort.

After the scan, we use a computer aided diagnostic tool (CAD) which generates a color map of any areas of concern in the prostate gland. In most cases we will send a CD of your images with you and a report will be sent to your physician.

Our MRI scanner, radiologists, and MRI technologists have been accredited by the American College of Radiology.

Preparation

There are no dietary restrictions or other preparations for this exam.

Risks and complications

There is no ionizing radiation associated with MRI and hearing protection is provided. We are able to play music through the head phones during the exam. Very few people are allergic to MRI contrast (Gadolinium). Please inform the technologist of any prior allergic events. If you experience symptoms such as hives, itching, or sneezing, medications are dispensed under the direction of a radiologist.

Appointment Time

Although the exam typically only takes 45 minutes or less, you should plan on being in our office for about an hour and a half to allow time for registration, history reporting, and completing the CD.