

MR Enterography - A specialized MRI that concentrates on the small intestines to evaluate for obstruction, Crohn's disease, or other pathology. *Primarily used when CT Enterography is contraindicated, as CT is the preferred modality for evaluating the intestines.*

Reasons for this test

Your doctor may order MR Enterography to evaluate the following:

- Crohn's disease
- Unexplained weight loss
- Bowel changes
- Question of cancer
- Other intestinal issues for patients who are unable to have CT (such as pregnant patients).

Possible complications

This MRI exam requires an injection of intravenous MRI contrast. Allergic reaction from gadolinium dye is extremely rare (less than 1%). Your doctor will review a list of possible complications. These may include: rash, hives, or shortness of breath. Notify the technologist immediately if you experience any discomfort.

What to expect prior to exam

- You will be asked not to eat or drink anything 8 hours prior to your appointment time. When possible, these exams are scheduled in the morning so you will come in fasting from the previous night. Small sips of water to take essential medications are permissible.
- For this exam, you will be asked to arrive two hours early and given oral contrast (a flavored barium mixture) to drink prior to the study. You will be notified of your exact arrival time when scheduling.
- You should wear comfortable clothing that does not have metal fasteners or metallic designs. Otherwise, you will be asked to change into a hospital gown. A locker will be supplied to secure your belongings.
- If you have any type of electronic implant, please bring the device card or other documents with the device information with you, as these devices must be documented to be sure they are safe before you can go into the MRI room.

What to expect the day of your exam

- You will be registered and asked to fill out the [MRI screening form](#). You can print this and fill it out ahead of time to bring with you.
- A health care professional will explain the test and answer any questions you may have.
- An IV will be started so the IV contrast can be administered during the exam.
- You will be required to lie still during the actual scanning, as MRI is extremely sensitive to motion and any movement will cause the images to be blurry, resulting in repeated scanning and longer time in the magnet. Depending on the body part that is being examined, you may be instructed to hold your breath for up to 30 seconds at a time.

- The magnet is permanently open on both ends. It is well lit and there is a fan for patient comfort. The part of the body being scanned will be placed in the middle of the magnet. There is a two-way intercom system for communication between patient and technologist.
- During the actual imaging, you will hear a loud intermittent banging noise. You will be provided with earplugs or headphones to minimize the noise during the procedure.
- If you have claustrophobia, your doctor may prescribe an oral medication for you to take for your MRI appointment. If this is the case, be sure you have a driver with you.
- The technologist will also provide you with an alarm button to alert the technologist of any discomfort you may experience at any point during the MRI exam.

What to expect after your exam

- After the exam is completed, the IV is removed from the arm before you go home.
- If you received sedation, someone must drive you home.

How long will it take?

The exam is 45 minutes to one hour in addition to the two hours needed for the oral contrast. Total time you will be at the health care facility is three to four hours.