



## What should I expect after the scan?

You may resume your normal daily activity as soon as the scan is complete. You will be able to eat and drink immediately after the scan, unless you are instructed otherwise. The gadolinium will leave your body within 24 hours, but you can speed up the process by drinking plenty of water. A board-certified radiologist with North Oaks Imaging Associates will interpret the images, prepare a report, and your doctor will receive the results within a timely manner. Studies are available in CD format using Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS).

If you have scheduling questions or cannot make your appointment, we ask that you notify **North Oaks Patient Scheduling** at **(985) 230-7777 at least 24 hours in advance.**

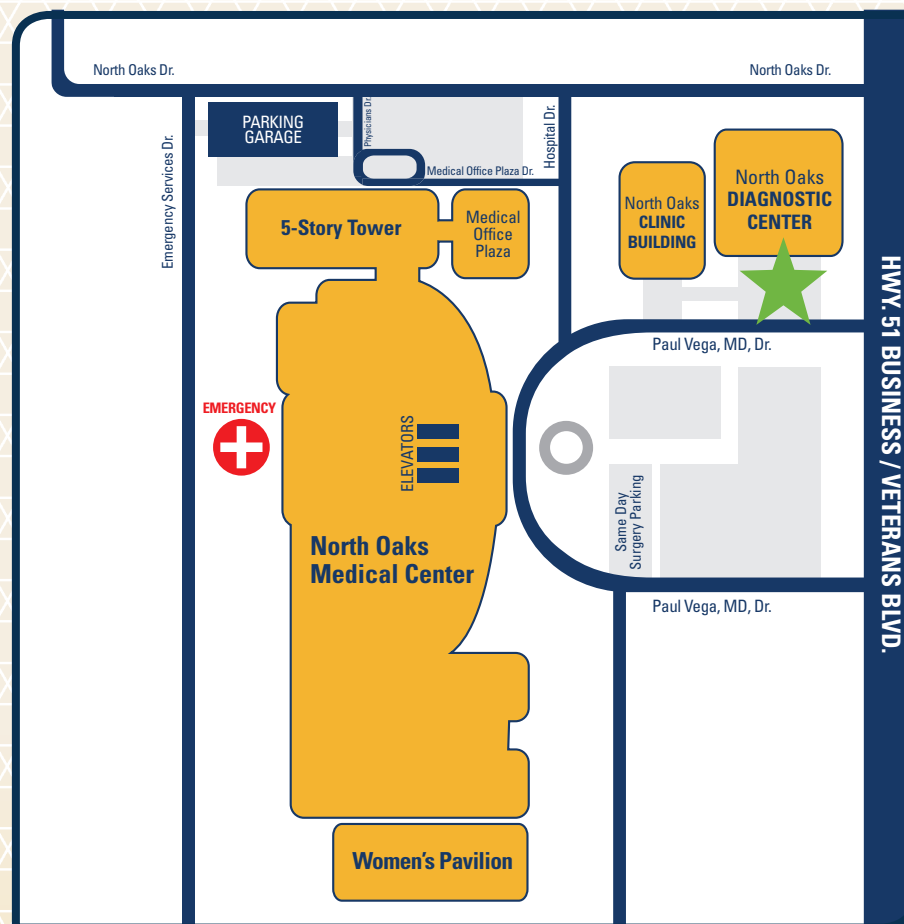
Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m.

**Please check in at the Diagnostic Center Admissions Desk.**

**The exam typically takes 25-30 minutes to complete.**

*The entire process from check-in to check-out should be approximately 45-60 minutes long.*



# Breast MRI

*Patient Information & Preparation*



**Detailed Imaging Focused on You.**

For more information about **Breast MRI**, please contact **North Oaks Diagnostic Services** at **(985) 230-7260.**

 **NORTH OAKS**  
Diagnostic Center

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 **NORTH OAKS**  
Diagnostic Center



## What is Breast MRI?

MRI stands for **Magnetic Resonance Imaging**.

**MRI** uses an imaging technique that unites a magnetic field, advanced computer system and radio waves to produce pictures of the inside of the body. Breast MRI is an established technique that supports digital mammography and breast ultrasound. It is an advanced tool using sophisticated computers and 3-D techniques that looks deep into the breast to discover problems that might not be visible in other exams.

Breast MRIs have the potential to show increased or unusual blood flow in the breast, sometimes not visible with digital mammography. Typically, women with dense breast tissue benefit more from the images produced by an MRI. When combined, MRI exams and mammograms may give women with an especially high risk of breast cancer a better chance at early detection.

## Why do I need a Breast MRI?

**You may need a Breast MRI if you have:**

- A high risk for breast cancer (i.e., your lifetime risk for breast cancer has been scored at 20% or greater based on family history and other factors.)
- Tested positive for the “breast cancer gene” (BRCA1, BRCA2)
- A history of chest radiation between the ages of 10 and 30
- A suspected silicone breast implant rupture
- A scheduled breast cancer conservation surgery
- Had test results that require further evaluation. Breast MRI is emerging as a valuable complement to mammography and ultrasound for the evaluation of the breast.
- Axillary cancer of unknown primary disease
- Li-Fraumeni syndrome, Cowden syndrome, or Bannayan-Riley-Ruvalcaba syndrome, or have an immediate family member with one of these syndromes.

**Your doctor can best determine if you are a good candidate for Breast MRI.**



## What should I do to prepare for the MRI scan?

When you arrive for your exam, you will be asked to fill out a brief medical history questionnaire. The technologist performing the MRI will review this information with you and answer any questions you may have. Be sure to let the technologist know if you are pregnant, nursing or if you have had a previous breast biopsy.

You will be asked to change into a gown. Metallic items interfere with the images, so they must be removed. These include jewelry, glasses, hearing aids, hair clips, pins and charge cards. You will be able to lock these in a safe area.

## You cannot undergo MRI if you have:

- A pacemaker or defibrillator
- An MRI non-compatible internal pump device
- Some inner ear implants
- Certain brain aneurysm clips
- Some metallic implants in the eyes.

*Please consult with your doctor or the MRI technologist before your scan if you have any of these items.*

## The following conditions may affect the scheduling of your Breast MRI:

- If you are pre-menopausal, you must schedule your MRI between days 7-14 of your cycle.
- You must discontinue Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) for at least 4 weeks prior to MRI. Estrogen affects the results of Breast MRI.
- If you have had a lumpectomy, you may be imaged immediately after and/or before additional therapy or surgery.
- You should have had a recent mammogram (within last 3 months) and a report available to the radiologist.



## What can I expect during my Breast MRI exam?

Before the exam begins, a technologist will start an IV in your arm. Throughout the exam, you will lie face down on a table with your breasts positioned into cup-like indentations. You will be asked to lie very still as images are taken. Any movement can interfere with the results. The scan table will slide slowly into the tube-shaped MRI scanner as your images are generated.

The technologist may ask if you have diabetes, insulin dependency, decreased kidney function, asthma or allergies of any kind, such as drugs, food or the environment. About halfway through the exam, you will receive an injection of the contrast material used for an MRI exam, called gadolinium. Gadolinium is used to enhance MRI images, does not contain iodine and is less likely to cause an allergic reaction. Once injected, more images will be taken.

*Calculate your lifetime risk of breast cancer at [www.cancer.gov/bcrisktool/](http://www.cancer.gov/bcrisktool/)*