

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 read the images, prepare a report and send the results to your doctor in a timely manner.

If you have scheduling questions or need to change your appointment, please notify **North Oaks Patient Scheduling** at **(985) 230-7777 at least 24 hours in advance.**

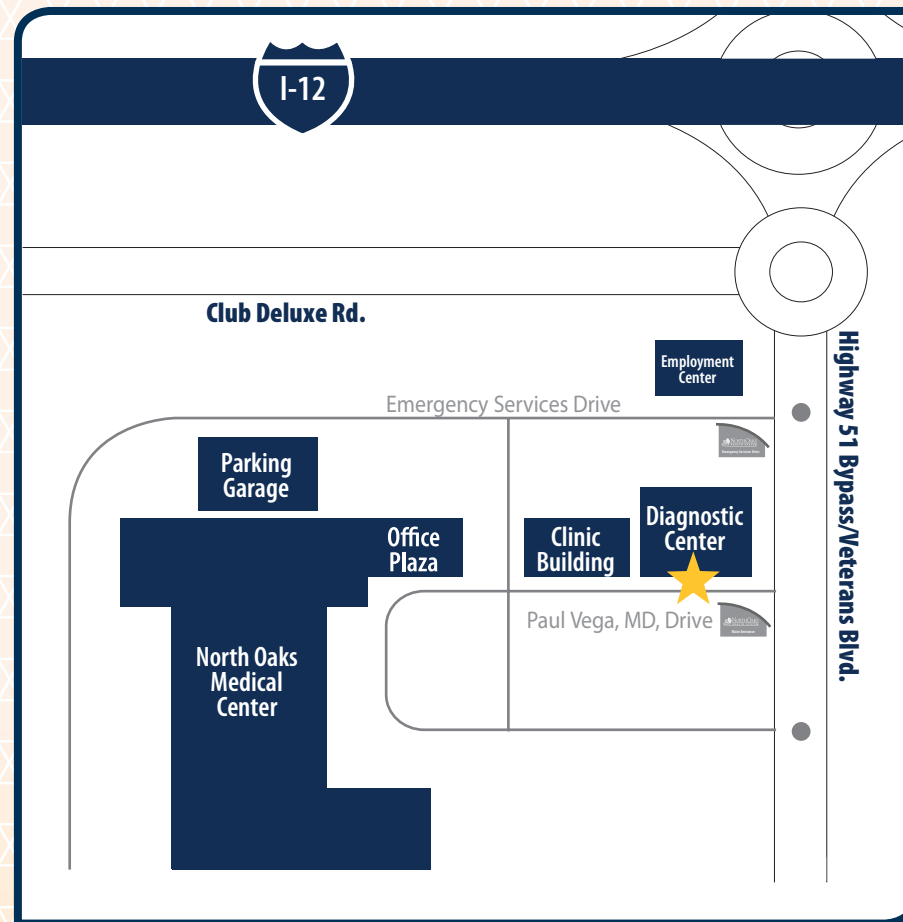
Patient's Name: _____

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.



Breast MRI

Patient Information & Preparation



Detailed Imaging Focused on You.

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

 **NORTH OAKS**
Diagnostic Center

15837 Paul Vega, MD, Drive
Hammond, LA 70403
(985) 230-7777
www.northoaks.org

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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 help doctors see deep inside the breast to discover problems that might not be seen using other exams. Breast MRI is safe and is often used in combination with digital mammography and breast ultrasound. Breast MRI can show increased or unusual blood flow in the breast, which may be a sign of breast cancer. This is sometimes not visible with digital mammography. Breast MRI is often used for women with denser (thicker) breast tissue. They also provide 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. 20% or greater risk based on family history and other factors)
- Tested positive for the “breast cancer gene” (BRCA1, BRCA2)
- Dense breast tissue is more difficult to detect because both cancer and dense tissue appear bright on a mammogram.
- Had chest radiation between the ages of 10-30
- A suspected silicone breast implant rupture
- A scheduled breast cancer conservation surgery
- Had test results that need further evaluation
- Lymph node cancer from an unknown original location
- 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 credit cards. You will be able to lock these items 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 four 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 the last three 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 dependence, kidney problems, asthma or any allergies (e.g. to food, drugs or the environment). Two sets of images will be taken during your MRI -- one without contrast and one with contrast. The contrast material used to enhance MRI images is called gadolinium and does not contain iodine (less likely to cause an allergic reaction). It is added through your IV about halfway through the exam and then the second set of images is taken.

Calculate your lifetime risk of breast cancer at www.cancer.gov/bcrisktool/