

What is Cardiac MRI?



Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a test that uses strong magnets to take detailed pictures of your heart. The magnets work together with radio waves to help the machine to create a 3D image of your heart.



It provides doctors with a lot of information about your heart including how thick your heart muscle is and how well your heart is working. It can also show if there are any other abnormalities in your heart.

What Should I Know About This Test?



People usually get this test at a clinic or hospital.



Most MRI's last about 1 to 2 hours.



People who have an implanted medical machine (artificial joints, pacemakers, etc.) may need to have special screening by the MRI team to find out if they are eligible for the test.

Is This Test Safe? Will It Hurt?



This test is common and safe. It is not painful.



People who have a fear of small, enclosed spaces may find the MRI uncomfortable. They may need medicine to help them relax.



The MRI machine may be loud. The technician will give you ear protection to keep you comfortable.



Unlike other tests, you don't get any radiation exposure with a MRI.

What Should I Expect When Getting Tested?



You will be asked to put on a hospital gown. You will also need to remove any jewelry or metal objects.



An IV will be placed. You may receive an injection of a contrast dye. This is a substance that is used to make the pictures clearer.



While you are laying down, a machine will scan your body to take images of your heart. The technician will be able to see, hear, and speak with you at all times and will guide you through the test.



During the test you may be asked to take deep breaths or to hold your breath for up to 10 or 20 seconds. This can help technicians get the right pictures. Otherwise, you will be asked to stay still during the scan.

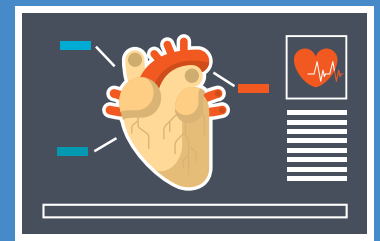
What Results Might Suggest I Have Cardiac Amyloidosis?



Cardiac MRI can help the doctor measure how thick the heart walls are.



Sometimes, the cardiac MRI will reveal specific patterns based on how the dye passes through the heart tissue. These patterns are often very important in making a diagnosis of cardiac amyloidosis.



What Comes Next?

Your doctor will review your test results and talk to you about them. Results will be different for each person. Here are some common examples of what your results might show:



The test results indicate you may have cardiac amyloidosis. If this happens, your doctor will want to run additional tests to find out what type of cardiac amyloidosis you have.



The test results indicate you may not have cardiac amyloidosis. If this happens, your doctor will talk to you about what the other medical condition is and what needs to be done to treat it. You may or may not need more tests.



It is unclear if you have a condition or not. This could mean your heart is healthy or it could mean that the test was unable to identify the problem. If this happens, you may need further testing.