



West Virginia University Hospitals &
The Center for Advanced Imaging
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Department



Safety Information for Prospective Students

The powerful magnetic field of the scanner can attract certain metallic objects that are ferromagnetic, causing them to move suddenly and with great force towards the center of the MRI system/scanner. This may pose a risk to you or anyone in the path of the object. Therefore, great care is taken to prevent ferromagnetic objects from entering the MRI scanner room.

It is vital that you remove metallic objects before entering the MRI static magnetic field, including watches, jewelry, and items of clothing that have metallic threads or fasteners.

Items that need to be removed before entering the MR system room include:

- Purse, wallet, money clip, credit cards or other cards with magnetic strips
- Electronic devices such as beepers or cell phones
- Hearing aids
- Metallic jewelry, watches
- Pens, paper clips, keys, nail clippers, coins, pocket knives
- Hair barrettes, hairpins
- Any article of clothing that has a metallic zipper, buttons, snaps, hooks, or under-wires
- Shoes, belt buckles, safety pins

Before entering the MRI scanner room, you will be asked to fill out a screening form asking about anything that might create a health risk. If you have a bullet, shrapnel, or similar metallic fragment in your body, there is a potential risk that it could change position, possibly causing injury. Also, the magnetic field of the scanner can damage an external hearing aid or cause a heart pacemaker to malfunction.

Examples of items or things that may create a health hazard or other problems:

- Pacemaker
- Implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD)
- Neurostimulator system
- Aneurysm clip
- Metallic implant
- Implanted drug infusion device
- Foreign metal objects, especially if in or near the eye
- Shrapnel or bullet
- Permanent cosmetics or tattoos
- Dentures/teeth with magnetic keepers
- Other implants that involve magnets
- Medication patches that contain metal foil (i.e. transdermal patch)

Important Note: If you are pregnant or think that you could be pregnant, you must notify program officials prior to entering the MRI scanner room.

Questions or comments can be directed to Brad Holben, Education Coordinator at
(304)293-8802 or cholben@hsc.wvu.edu