

**Yale New Haven Hospital**  
**Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging**  
**Total Spine MRI**  
**Pre-exam Information and Instructions**



**Thank you for choosing Yale New Haven Hospital**

*We are looking forward to providing you with exceptional care.*

**Yale New Haven Hospital Preparation for this Exam:**

(Please arrive **30 minutes** early to check in.)

**Before Arriving for Your Exam**

- If you have the identification card of any implanted devices you may have, please bring it.

**After Arriving**

- You will be asked to complete a questionnaire which will determine if an MRI is safe for you. People with various implants (usually metallic) or with metal in their bodies (including some tattoos) may have difficulty with an MRI, which utilizes a strong magnetic field.
- Upon arrival, the technologist will explain your procedure and answer any questions you may have.
- You will need to change into hospital attire.
- If contrast is ordered for your exam, an IV will need to be placed

**During Your Exam**

- During your scan you will be required to lie flat on your back, without moving.
- Coils (special devices to improve image quality) may be placed on or around the area of interest.
- The scanning table will slide your whole body into the magnet.
- You will be communicating with the technologist during the entire study.
- During the scan, earplugs will be provided to help mask the noise (intermittent humming, thumping, clicking and knocking).
- In cases where contrast was ordered, it will be injected into the IV in your arm and may cause a cool sensation.

**Exam Duration**

- Your scan will take approximately 90 minutes.

**After Your Procedure**

- There are no restrictions placed upon you. You may eat or drive as normal, although if you took relaxation medication, you will need someone to drive you home.
- Your images will be interpreted by a Yale Radiologist (a doctor who is an expert in interpreting imaging exams).

\*For more general information on what to expect during your upcoming radiology exam-

Visit this link to **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) - Spine** at **[RadiologyInfo.org](https://www.radiologyinfo.org)**

*[RadiologyInfo.org](https://www.radiologyinfo.org) is the public information resource developed by health care professionals in collaboration with patients. It was established to inform and educate the public about how various x-ray, CT, MRI, ultrasound, radiation therapy and other procedures/exams are performed and what you may experience during your procedure.*

*RadiologyInfo.org is sponsored by the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) and the American College of Radiology (ACR).*

**Yale New Haven Hospital thanks you  
for choosing us to be part of your healthcare team.**