

## **Breast Imaging Center Magnetic Resonance Imaging**

The statements below are available to patients receiving an MRI appointment in the Breast Imaging Center. Please understand that these policies were developed to accommodate all patients and provide the best possible medical care.

**Medical History:** Your technologist will ask you questions about your symptoms and medical history in order to optimize your examination. Please make sure you inform the technologist about any metal implants you may have. (i.e. pacemakers, defibrillator, aneurysm clips)

**What Is Breast MRI:** Breast MR Imaging uses MRI technology for the detection, evaluation and follow-up of breast cancer. Many studies have shown that it is the technique that is most sensitive for the detection of breast cancer and other breast diseases. Your physician can make the best determination if you are a good candidate for this study. **It is important to note that Breast MRI does not replace annual screening mammography; as some cancers may only be seen on the mammogram.**

**Breast Exam:** After you change into a hospital gown, a technologist will start an intravenous (IV) in your arm. A contrast agent called gadolinium will be administered through the IV, shortly after the exam begins. The contrast agent is salt-based and generally has no side effects. If you have allergies to certain medications, be sure to tell you doctor before you schedule the MRI.

Next, you will lie down on your stomach on a flat table that will allow your breasts to hang down through an opening. The table will then slide into the MRI machine. Unlike traditional mammograms, you should experience no pain and only minimal compression. You will be monitored at all times.

The MRI machine makes a loud noise, so you will be asked to wear protective equipment for your ears to block out the noise and allow the staff to communicate with you. The MRI exam takes approximately 45 to 60 minutes.

**After exam is completed:** Results of your MRI exam will not be available immediately, due to the significant number of images taken during your exam. The radiologist will review your study typically the next business day and a report will be sent to your physician. Your physician will then review the results of the study with you.

**Late Policy:** Please plan to arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment. If you are unable to arrive on time, please call the BIC Front Desk at 301-295-8561. However, if you are more than 15 minutes late, we will do everything to accommodate your exam, but we may have to reschedule or move your exam to a later time slot.

**Children:** Children under the age of 12 years must have another adult caregiver present. Please do not bring your child/children without a caregiver. Children are not permitted in the exam rooms.