

What is the difference between an MRI and a CT Scan?

MRI Scan

Designed for looking at soft tissues, tendons, ligaments, spinal cords, and the brain

Bony structures less detailed compared to CT Scan

Powered by strong magnetic fields

Being inside an MRI is like being inside a large tube. This causes some people to experience claustrophobia or anxiety due to the length of the exam.

Lasts 45 minutes to 1 hour

MRI machines make loud noises, so you will receive headphones or earplugs

You may be asked to hold your breath from time to time

Patients with metal or certain medical implants are not able to undergo MRIs due to the magnetic field pulses

CT Scan

Better suited for imaging injuries from trauma, staging cancer, and diagnosing conditions in blood vessels

Bony structures are more clear and detailed

Powered by low doses of radiation

Most people are comfortable with a CT scan, as the machine is donut-shaped and not fully enclosed.

Lasts 10-15 minutes

CT machines make soft, whirring noises and have flashing lights

Holding breath is not required as much

CT scan can be performed with no risk to medical implants or metal