

Mayo Clinic Minute

What's an MRI and why do I need one?

Video	Audio
	<p>Your doctor just ordered an MRI exam to get a better look at your soft tissues and internal organs.</p> <p>At Mayo Clinic, you'll be in a hospital gown and wheeled into a large donut-shaped machine.</p> <p>MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging. It uses magnets and radio waves to create sophisticated images.</p>
Phillip Young, M.D. Radiology - Diagnostics Mayo Clinic 00:00:58	"It's an imaging technology that allows us to see inside patients and make diagnoses without ever having to do anything invasive or surgical."
	Dr. Philip Young, a radiologist at Mayo Clinic, says MRI scans are used for a wide range of exams from the brain and spine to the knee; abdominal organs like the liver; the pancreas; the kidneys; and female pelvic organs; and screening for breast cancer.
00:04:32	"And, increasingly, we're using it in patients, for example, like prostate cancer patients, where they may have an elevated screening lab test. And we can help to kind of define the role for more aggressive or invasive workup."
	Dr. Young says MRI is radiation-free and is a rapidly advancing technology that allows patients to be diagnosed and cared for earlier.
11:55	"MRI does not have any ionizing radiation or long-term adverse effects, and that's one of the real beauties of the technology."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Ian Roth.