



Canada Diagnostic Centres

What is an MRI?

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) employs a magnetic field and radio waves to create images of organs and tissues. An MRI machine is a large, tube-like magnet that temporarily realigns hydrogen atoms in the body. Radio waves then create cross-sectional and 3-D perspectives of your body.

A magnetic field is measured in Tesla (T). CDC's 3 Tesla MRI System is more than one and a half times the previous high standard and 10 to 15 times the strength of open MRI scanners. This intensity of magnetic field allows exceptional anatomic detail and unparalleled clarity. This means greater clarity that is beneficial regardless of condition but is particularly valuable for conditions involving the brain, spine and musculoskeletal system.

Patient comfort is often affected by the size of the opening or scan area, called the bore, as well as the noise associated with the procedure. CDC's wide-bore MRI reduces feelings of claustrophobia, particularly when scans might take 30 minutes or longer. The new MRI employs new technology to significantly lessen the amount of background noise providing a quieter and more pleasant exam.

Improvement in technology of the MRI also means that it delivers sharper, clearer scans and takes less time – up to 50% shorter scan time.

Often in situations dealing with joint injuries, an arthrogram test is done, where X-rays are used to take a series of pictures after a contrast material, often a liquid dye, has been injected into the joint. An MRI with advanced capabilities can be used in place of such an invasive procedure while still delivering enough information to answer questions with more certainty and provide better diagnostics.

Canada Diagnostic Centres operates Calgary's most advanced community-based MRI, the GE 3.0 Signa Pioneer (the first of its kind in Alberta), available at its Chinook location. CDC is Alberta's original community-based MRI facility, with over 20 years of experience. It opened



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Canada's first community-based MRI diagnostic centre and remains the industry leaders through excellence and professionalism. Our expert MRI radiologists and technicians provide exceptional patient care. You can be confident that the scan is expertly analyzed and your patient experience is as comforting and stress-free as possible. We are the pioneers of this service in Alberta and it shows.

Immediacy

Wait times to receive an MRI in Alberta's public health system are increasing. In Calgary, for example, the average wait time in June 2016 was 18 weeks, up more than three weeks from a year earlier. Patients can avoid the stress and potential risks of waiting by calling Canada Diagnostic Centres, which can usually schedule a visit within 48 hours of a referral from a general practitioner or specialist.

No radiation

MRI procedures do not expose patients to any radiation.

Affordability

Fees for CDC scans are comparable to other MRI clinics in Canada and less expensive than those in the United States.

Wider range of services

CDC has partnered with two new radiologists focused on breast MRI scans to expand the range of services while providing the best quality of diagnostics possible.

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