



# Q&A

about your **MR scan.**

## **WHY ARE MR SCANS IMPORTANT?**

MR scans allow doctors to see images of your internal organs and structures in great detail from many angles. This gives them information more quickly, and in many cases more economically, than past tests and exploratory surgeries.

## **IS AN MR SCAN LIKE AN X-RAY?**

No. An MR scan uses a powerful magnet in conjunction with radio frequency waves to generate images of your internal organs and structures. It's one of the least invasive tests that can see inside the body.

## **HOW LONG WILL THE EXAM TAKE?**

That will depend on what is being studied, but a typical exam lasts between 20 and 60 minutes. You should allow extra time in case the exam lasts longer than expected.

## **WHAT IF I HAVE CLAUSTROPHOBIA?**

There are two types of MR machines: traditional ones where you are in a tube that you enter either feet-first or head-first, and open-designed ones with wide patient gaps. The Philips Panorama MRI is open, greatly reducing patient anxiety and claustrophobia.

## **DOES THE MACHINE MAKE A LOT OF NOISE?**

The magnet makes a slight rapping sound as images are being taken. In between scans the machine is quiet. The MR technologist will provide you with hearing protection, but its use will not prevent you from hearing the technologist if he or she speaks to you during the exam.

## **DO I HAVE TO HOLD STILL THE WHOLE TIME?**

It is important for image clarity and the best scan results to hold still during the exam. The technologists will inform you when you may move between scans. Keep in mind a routine exam can take at least 20 minutes.

## **WILL I BE ALONE?**

You will be in contact with a technologist at all times. Even when he or she is not in the MR room, you will be able to talk to him or her by intercom. In some cases a family member is welcome to stay in the room with you during your scan.



A MR scan will help doctors learn what they really need to know about you.

MR scanning is one of the most useful tools physicians have to make an accurate diagnosis and select an appropriate treatment for their patients. Because these images are computer generated, they can be instantly sent electronically to off-site specialists and consultants. Thanks to its wide opening, your MR system should prove perfectly comfortable. In fact, you may even find the experience relaxing.