

The following location offers breast MRI:

Morehead Medical Plaza
1025 Morehead Medical Drive, Suite 150
Charlotte, NC 28204
704.831.4200

Schedule your appointment with Charlotte Radiology

A physician referral is needed for a breast MRI. Most major health insurance carriers cover this procedure, however we recommend you contact your provider for verification. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment to allow time for patient registration.

704.367.2232 • toll free 877.362.2232

For more information

If you have questions about any of our procedures or for directions, please visit our comprehensive website:

www.charlotteradiology.com

May we also suggest:

www.breastcancer.org
www.cancer.org
www.cancer.gov
www.komen.org

www.charlotteradiology.com



Breast MRI

providing the perfect balance of health and spirit.

The only dedicated Breast MRI in the Carolinas

Charlotte Radiology is proud to offer our patients the first and only MRI in the Carolinas specifically dedicated to breast imaging and biopsy. Breast MRI is a sophisticated technology that uses a computer, magnetic field and radio waves—instead of x-rays—to produce images of the soft tissues in the body. This non-invasive procedure helps Charlotte Radiology's board-certified mammography trained physicians evaluate the breast. When used in conjunction with screening and diagnostic mammography it can provide valuable information for the detection and characterization of breast disease. Breast MRI does not replace mammography—it is a different imaging technique that provides additional information.

Some of the benefits of breast MRI:

- Breast MRI is now proven to be more sensitive than any other modality in detecting invasive breast cancer.
- The best test for surgical and treatment planning, showing the size and extent of a breast tumor prior to surgery.
- Beneficial for screening patients at particularly high risk for breast cancer.
- Used for diagnosis of breast implant rupture.
- Evaluating dense breast tissue.

What to expect

A breast MRI does not require your breasts to be compressed, so you should not experience discomfort. After filling out paperwork, you will be escorted into a private dressing room where you will change into a gown and remove jewelry. A female technologist will position you for the scan. During the exam, you will lie on your stomach with your arms up over your head. Your breasts will be positioned into a cushioned opening containing a special breast-imaging coil. You will enter the machine head first.

Most patients receive an injection of contrast enhancement called gadolinium during the exam. This helps the radiologist define and characterize structures in breast tissue. It is a small injection administered through a vein in the hand or arm. Adverse reactions to gadolinium are rare, however, some patients

may require additional lab work prior to the exam. You will be asked to lie very still, relax and breathe normally. The MRI scan will only take 15-30 minutes. There are typically no side effects during or after MRI, so you can resume normal activities as soon as your exam is over.

Preparing for your appointment

It is very important that any prior breast films be available to the radiologist for comparison during the interpretation of your MRI scan. So if you have had these at a facility other than Charlotte Radiology, please bring them with you on the day of your appointment.

Please plan to arrive 15 minutes before your appointment time. The entire appointment will take 45 minutes to an hour. This exam should be scheduled 7-10 days after the start of your menstrual cycle—this is when the breast tissue appears most normal. If you suffer from minor claustrophobia or anxiety, you may want to ask your physician for a mild sedative. Do not take the sedative until you have signed your paperwork.

If you have any of the items listed below, please call 704.831.4200 so we can make arrangements for you before your appointment:

- Cardiac Pacemaker
- Artificial heart valve prostheses
- Aneurysm clips
- Eye implants or metal ear implants or any metal implants activated electronically, magnetically or mechanically
- Copper 7 IUD
- Shrapnel or non-removed bullet
- Pregnancy
- Weight over 350 lbs
- Claustrophobia
- Any metal puncture(s) or fragment(s) in eye

What happens after your exam

A radiologist specialized in breast imaging will review your images and a report will be faxed directly to your physician.