

Advanced Medical Imaging



EYE ON IMAGING

Winter 2015

MRI CT Xray HIDA Cardiac Stress NUCLEAR Ultrasound Bone Density Mammography

MRI Mythbusters

Myth 1: I can't have an MRI because I have had a joint replacement.

Fortunately, the majority of medical devices used to care for patients are not affected by the magnetic field and can be safely scanned. This includes such common devices such as orthopaedic joint replacements and most implanted hardware. Depending on the proximity of the implant to the area being scanned, distortion can be an issue, but we have special protocols to maximize the exam quality. It is always important to discuss prior operations or implanted devices before your MRI. Some devices such as brain clips and pacemakers may not be safe. In addition, anyone with shrapnel or anyone exposed to welding or metal fragments may need to be screened with an xray prior to their MRI. Even the smallest ferrous metal in the brain, eye or ear can be dangerous.

Myth 2: I am claustrophobic so I can't get in that MRI tube!

Yes you can! Or at least you may be able to. There are several ways we can assist patients in completing their MRI exams. Our Siemens MRI unit has a larger bore size than other MRI units, but even with the larger size, some people still have issues. First, depending on the area of the body to be scanned we can position the patient with their head outside the bore. If positioning is not possible, many patients do quite well with a washcloth over their eyes, headphones and their favorite music. If you are aware that the patient will require more than that, we can administer oral Alprazolam here in the office to relax the patient. This should be given a half hour prior to the study and the patient must have a driver. If you or your patient have concerns about claustrophobia, please inform our staff at the time of scheduling. We like to allow additional time for these patients.

Myth 3: MRI contrast will damage my kidneys.

Some MRI examinations require the injection of a contrast agent. MRI contrast is a very safe drug with a very low incidence of side effects. While MRI contrast agents alone are considered safe and do not pose a risk of kidney damage, they can cause problems when given to patients that already have problems with their kidneys. There is a recognition of a condition called nephrogenic sclerosing fibrosis or NSF that is related to exposure to MRI contrast agents. NSF is a rare condition in which patients with pre-existing problems with their kidneys received MRI contrast agents that contain gadolinium. Please inform our staff while scheduling if you are concerned about kidney function.

We do provide creatinine serum tests here at AMI to ensure adequate renal function.



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Todd Reyburn MD Keith Wexler MD
2008 West Boulevard
Kokomo IN 46902
(765) 454-9729 FAX (765) 454-9766
AMIKokomo.com



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Lung Cancer Screening UPDATE

We have previously reported on the benefits of low dose CT Screening for lung cancer for high risk individuals. Medicare and most private insurers are now covering this screening. Eligibility will vary based on the insurance company. Pre-authorization is also required for most insurance providers.

ANTHEM

- Age 55-80 years;
- Asymptomatic for lung cancer
- 30 pack-year smoking history;
- Current smoker or one who has quit within the last 15 years;
- Screening will occur no more often than annually.

A DX code of V76.0 should be used and this exam must be pre-authorized.

MEDICARE

- Age 55 – 77 years;
- Asymptomatic for lung cancer;
- 30 pack-year smoking history;
- Current smoker or one who has quit smoking within the last 15 years;
- Receives a written order for LDCT lung cancer screening during a lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision making visit and the order must contain the following:

The order for LDCT must contain the following:

- * Beneficiary date of birth;
- * Pack - year smoking history;
- * Current smoking status, and for former smokers, the number of years since quitting smoking;
- * Statement that the beneficiary is asymptomatic;
- * National Provider Identifier(NPI) of the ordering practitioner.

The full CMS decision memo and a lung screening decision guide is available on our website Amikokomo.com under Imaging News.

We can provide separate order sheets for LDCT screenings that make it easier to provide the required information. Just call our office and we will send them over.

Advanced Medical Imaging has been accredited by the American College of Radiology as a Lung Cancer Screening Center. This designation assures you and your patients that we meet the rigorous standards of the ACR on safety and quality and that our radiologists and technologists exceed the requirements for training and expertise.

As an ACR Designated Lung Cancer Screening Center, we must also provide smoking cessation information to your patients and provide data on each lung screen we perform to the national registry.



For a consult or to refer a patient, please call 765-454-XRAY (9729)

Self Pay Low Dose CT Lung Screening \$99

Imaging Challenges

It is our mission to provide the highest quality images and best medical care possible. In order to achieve these goals it is sometimes necessary to book longer appointment times or spread scans over multiple days.

MRI exams require patients to remain very still for an extended amount of time. If a patient requires multiple body parts to be imaged, this can be very difficult, painful or just not possible. Patient movement results in blurry images. It is our experience that image quality and patient comfort is best achieved when these patients have their exams on separate days. In addition, when patient's have back to back exams scheduled and they do not show for their examination, our staff and imaging equipment sit idle for over an hour which makes it difficult to keep our costs low.

Another challenge across imaging modalities involves the larger, disabled, difficult or claustrophobic patient. If you are aware that your patient has special needs, please inform our staff during scheduling so we can schedule extra time and staff to accommodate them.

CT Contrast Allergy Alternatives

If a patient has a known allergy or reaction to iodinated CT contrast agent, there are alternative modalities that might be appropriate for diagnosis other than CT. MRI can be an excellent alternative choice for many CT examinations. The contrast used in MRI exams is different than that used for CT. Premedication is also an option if your patient requires a CT.

If you would like to speak to one of our radiologists to discuss alternatives for your patient, please call our office.

Pre-authorization

Pre-authorization is required by most private insurers for MRI, CT and Nuclear exams. Retroactive authorizations are rarely approved so it is critical to obtain the pre-auth before the patient arrives at our office. Most insurers require the referring physician to initiate this process. If you have suggestions on how to make this process easier for your staff, please contact Jodi Hartzler at our office to discuss ideas.

Cost and Quality

We are happy to talk with you and your patients about exams and their estimated expenses.

We strive to provide high quality, low cost procedures. In general, we are far less expensive than hospitals and their centers. Our fees include the radiologist professional component unlike hospitals and other centers, which add an undisclosed 20-30% for a separately billed radiologist. We also offer a discount of 50% for self-pay patients.

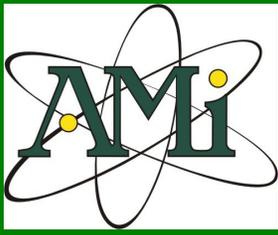
We maintain an "A" Anthem rating and are accredited through the American College of Radiology.

Website News

We have launched our new AMIKokomo.com website! The Physician Portal is in a new, prominent location at the top right of the home page. It is highlighted in blue. If you experience any problems with your login, please call our office.

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Putting Our Best Foot Forward

To provide the highest quality in medical imaging



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