MRI With Sedation

You have been scheduled for an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) with sedation. An MRI examination consists of a series of "sequences" each lasting from a few seconds to several minutes and accompanied by the knocking sound of the machine.

The MRI machine at the Mellen Center has a shorter tunnel, and the noise level is much louder due to its increased speed in taking images.

During your MRI, you will be able to listen to your favorite radio station and look out the machine thru a mirror. You will also be given a call bell to squeeze if you need assistance any time during the exam.

Since you are getting your MRI with sedation, you will be given a medicine called Xanax®. This medicine will be prescribed by your doctor at the Mellen Center. The medicine is used for short-term relief of anxiety.

You will be at the Mellen Center for about 2½ to 3 hours depending on the type of exam your doctor ordered.

Preparation for the exam

- The MRI nurse will call you 24 to 48 hours prior to your exam to ask some questions and answer any you might have.
- Do not have anything to eat for at least 6 hours prior to your exam.
- Do not drink coffee or caffeinated beverages or smoke prior to your exam.
- Continue taking your medicines as prescribed with water.
- If you have diabetes, please contact your doctor to see if you will need to make any changes to your insulin or pills.
- You will need someone with you to drive you home from this appointment, preferably a relative or friend who can be entrusted with your safety while under the influence of the sedation. If it is not possible for a relative or friend to come with you, please discuss this with your nurse or doctor before your appointment. The person who accompanies you to the appointment must stay in the MRI lobby area during your exam.
Day of the exam

- You will check in at Desk U15 one hour prior to your appointment. For example, if your appointment is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., you must arrive promptly at 9:45 a.m. to complete a screening form.

If you arrive 15 minutes late, we will need to reschedule your appointment. If you will need assistance with walking (such as a wheelchair or walker) or use a transportation service, you will need to allow enough time to arrive on time for your appointment.

- The nurse will review your medical history and medicines, and will monitor your blood pressure, heart rate and respiration.

- You will be given Xanax tablets for the sedation.

- We do not use IV medicines at the Mellen Center.

If you require or want sedation that is stronger, you will need to discuss this with your doctor at the Mellen Center. IV sedation is only given on the main campus at L10 with anesthesia.

Remember, MRIs are done at the scheduled time. You must have a family member, friend or transportation service to accompany you to the appointment and drive you home.

If you have questions for the nurse please write them down in the space below and on the back of this form. You will be able to refer to them when you talk with the nurse.

© Copyright 1995-2009 The Cleveland Clinic Foundation. All rights reserved.