

## Magnetic Resonance Imaging

### OPEN MRI

#### Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. What is an OPEN MRI machine?

A. The OPEN MRI machine performs the same type of exams as the ‘closed’ or ‘tunnel’ shaped MRI machines. The big difference is the space inside the machine. Our OPEN MRI machine provides an opening 4 feet wide and 1 1/2 feet high.

Q. Where do I go to have my OPEN MRI scan performed?

A. Durango Orthopedic Associates has an OPEN MRI machine in our office. This is the only OPEN MRI machine in the 4-Corners region.

Q. What if I am claustrophobic?

A. The OPEN MRI machine allows many patients to proceed with the exam without medication. We will be glad to have you look at the machine before you schedule your MRI scan. If you are still apprehensive about the exam, medication is available. Please make your decision known when scheduling your MRI, as special arrangements must be made before you arrive for your MRI exam.

Q. Is it necessary to get insurance pre-certification for MRI exams?

A. All insurance companies have different requirements. Most DO require pre-certification for MRI scans. Durango Orthopedic Associates has an in-house insurance specialist who will handle this for you or your referring physicians office.

Q. Is my insurance company billed for the MRI?

A. Yes, Durango Orthopedic Associates will bill your insurance company directly... and there is only (1) bill! At some facilities you would be billed for the MRI exam and receive another bill for a radiologist to read the MRI. This is great news for you, the patient, you will only be responsible for one (1) deductible and/or co-pay. **THIS SAVES YOU MONEY!**

Q. What if I don't have medical insurance? How do the fees at Durango Orthopedic Associates compare to other MRI facilities?

A. Durango Orthopedic Associates is one of the lowest cost MRI facilities on the Western slope. We also have billing specialists available to review payment option/plans with you.

Q. Who reads my MRI scan?

A. Durango Orthopedic Associates has contracted the services of Diversified Radiology. This is a group of radiologists who specialize in reading musculoskeletal MRI's. Diversified Radiology also reads MRI's for the Steadman Hawkins clinic in Vail, Colorado.

Q. How do I find out what the MRI results are?

A. You should receive your results from your physician's office. Your physician should receive a copy of the MRI report within 2 – 4 days. This is dependent upon what day you were scanned.

Q. Where are my MRI films stored?

A. If you are seeing a Durango Orthopedic Associates physician, we will store your MRI films here in our office. If you are seeing a physician outside of the Durango Orthopedic Associates practice your films will be stored at your referring physician's office. These films are available for your use at your request.

We will do everything possible to make sure your MRI experience is a pleasant one. Below is a list of what you can expect during your exam.

- ~ OPEN MRI exams take approximately one (1) hour.
- ~ You should wear comfortable clothing with no metal zippers, buttons, etc. or Durango Orthopedic Associates will provide you with appropriate clothing.
- ~ You will be able to listen to music during your OPEN MRI exam. Bring your own CD from home or we will provide a musical selection.
- ~ You may have a visitor in the MRI scan room. (They must pass a safety screening.)

**Your OPEN MRI is scheduled for:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please arrive at:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AM / PM**

**If you have any questions please call: (970) 247-5362**