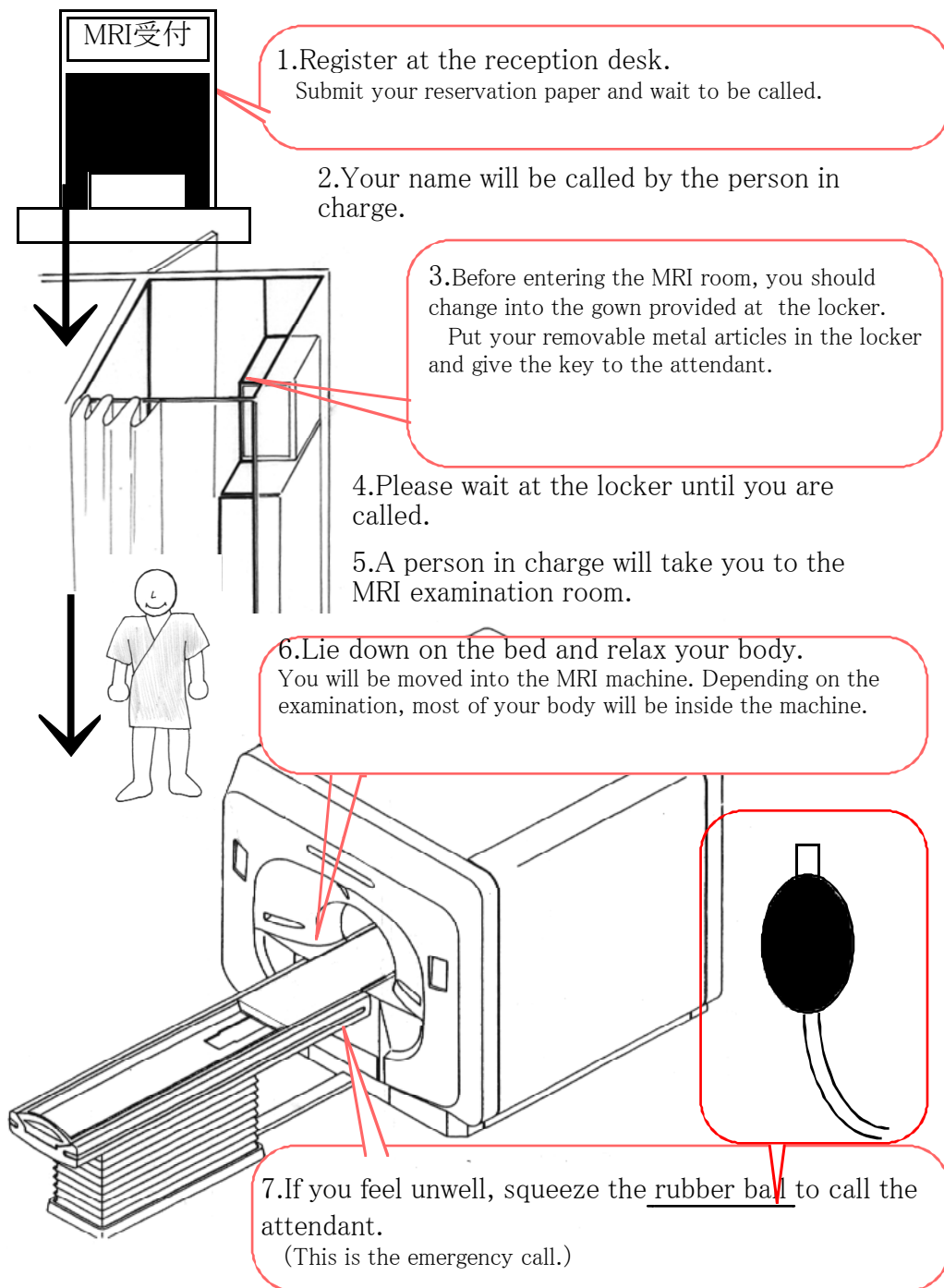


The Steps of the MRI examination



This is the MRI examination

MRI(magnetic resonance imaging) is a system for examining the inner parts of the body with the use of a strong magnet. It is a non-surgical process that can take cross-sectional pictures of the body from various angles.

Care to be taken when undergoing MRI

The magnet used in the MRI does not usually affect the human body. However, in some cases, the following patients may not be allowed to undergo an MRI :

1. Those having a pacemaker or stimulating electrode
2. Those having metallic implants such as artificial joints
3. Those with claustrophobia, or those who are afraid of being in narrow places
4. Those who cannot keep their body still for an extended period of time

Such patients are requested to inform their attending physician or Radiological Technician of their situations in advance.



Any metal items should be taken off before undergoing the examination.

They may be damaged or may affect the examination result.



Special features of MRI

1.Noisy

During your examination, you will hear a continuous, pounding sound. This is normal.

2.Confined space

The inner diameter of the MRI machine is about 50centimeters. If you have a problem with claustrophobia you should not have the examination.

3.Movement

The examination takes between 15 and 30 minutes. Movement of your body may affect the examination results of your MRI. Therefore, you should remain completely still during your examination.

4.Metal objects

Any jewellery of metal objects should be removed during the examination. If you have a pacemaker or any surgical implants made of metal, you are requested to tell your doctor in advance.

5.Limited examination

Your MRI will be Limited to only one part of your body. MRIs for separate body parts require separate examinations.

6.Scheduling

You should reserve your examination day and time. To reduce the waiting time of the patient, a special schedule is made depending on the type of examination.

Things to be done before undergoing MRI

The following items may be damaged or affect the examination results and should be removed in advance:



1.Metal objects

watches, glasses, keys, coins, hairpins, accessories, dentures, hearing aids, undergarments containing wire or metal, body warmers, magnetic muscle relaxants, lighters, cellular phones, beepers,belts, etc *Before entering the MRI room, you should change into the examination gown provided.

2.Magnetic cards

cash cards, telephone cards, credit cards, commutation tickets, etc.

☆.Unremovable rings, and dental work are permissible, but you are requested to inform the Technician before the examination.

☆.If you have tattoos•tattooed eyebrows•eye shadows which may contain metal depending on the coloring matter, you are requested to inform your doctor in advance.
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What are contrast media for MRI ?

In some cases, a contrast medium is used for a more detailed examination, to enhance the quality of the image. Normally, the contrast medium is injected intravenously. However, some media are also taken orally.

Contrast media are drugs with comparatively few adverse effects. But, beware if you have:

1. had asthma
2. had renal insufficiency
- 3.experienced a skin allergy or felt unwell when using contrast media for MRI in the past.

*Contrast media for MRI differ from those used for a CT examination. There are fewer side effects associated with the contrast media for MRI than for CT.