WELCOME to the Upright Open MRI

Thank you for being willing to participate in our research. What we learn from the scanning through our research will help advance MRI research in the world. We aim to translate our findings to improve care for patients in Canada and all over the world.
About The Upright Open MRI

What makes the Upright Open MRI different?

SIZE
The Upright Open MRI is a more open version of a traditional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner.

DESIGN
The unique stand-up, walk-in design of the UO-MRI allows us to image people in ways that are not possible with a traditional MRI scanner.

We can scan across a range of motion, in a variety of positions—including symptomatic positions—and during weight-bearing activities.

This is particularly important for imaging joints that have been injured or damaged by disease. For example, scans in a standing position for knee osteoarthritis could offer new insights into the underlying pathology.
Before Your Scan

Am I eligible to be scanned?

We will ask you to complete a screening questionnaire before scanning to ensure that it is safe for you to be close to a strong magnet. This questionnaire includes questions about previous surgeries, piercings, tattoos, medication patches and more.

If you say “yes” to any of these questions, this does not necessarily mean you cannot be scanned. However, you will need to contact us before your appointment so we can ask you additional questions.

Upright Open MRI Screening Form
About The Upright Open MRI

Is it safe?

The UO-MRI is considered to be safe. Please be aware of the risk of feeling dizzy or faint. Do not hesitate to sit down, move or press the call bell if you start to feel lightheaded or unwell in any way.

All MRI scanners are large, strong magnets. Even when we are not scanning, the magnet is always on, and will always attract certain kinds of metal. Make sure there is no metal on you when you enter the scan room.

Your safety is our first priority and we will make sure you are as safe as possible while in the vicinity of the Upright Open MRI.
Before Your Scan

How do I get there?

Please see our website for detailed wayfinding instructions (www.hiphealth.ca > Connect > Getting Here). On the map shown below, the blue pinpoint is where the UO-MRI is located.

Make sure you allow enough time to park and walk to the UO-MRI (also known as the Research MRI), which could take several minutes.

What should I wear?

You will be asked to change into hospital scrubs when you arrive. If your socks aren't suitable for scanning, you will be provided with hospital booties.

You will be provided with a secure locker to store your belongings.

Please remove all jewellery and store with your belongings.

You will be required to remove your glasses but you are able to wear contact lenses.
Before Your Scan

Should I eat before I come?

Yes!

Eat a healthy full meal before coming to your scanning appointment.

If your scan is scheduled between meal times, plan to have something to drink and eat just prior to your scan, e.g. water or juice, and a piece of fruit, granola bar, or other snack.
During Your Scan

How long does scanning take?

You may be involved in a study that requires one or more scanning sessions, each session could take from 1–3 hours. You will be asked to stay completely still for a few minutes at a time, with pauses in between scans. Please continue to breathe normally.

While there are washrooms located close to us in the hospital, it is a good idea to use the washroom prior to starting the study. Please let us know at anytime if you would like to take a break for the washroom, to have some water, or just to rest.
During Your Scan

Is it loud?

Yes.

The Upright Open MRI may not be as loud as other MRI scanners, but it is still quite noisy.

Most of the noises you will hear are commonly described as squeaking, chirping, or loud knocking sounds, like a woodpecker tapping a hollow tree. These are normal sounds for an MRI scanner.

In all positions, you will be given earplugs and headphones. If the scanning position allows you will be given a choice of movies to watch. Otherwise you will be given a choice of music to listen to.
During Your Scan

Will I be able to communicate with the technologists?

Absolutely. We have a 2-way communication system with a call bell, microphone and speakers. Use the call bell at anytime if you would like to speak to the technologist, take a break, are uncomfortable, or start to feel unwell.

It is easy for us to stop for a few minutes, and repeating a scan usually takes less than five minutes. You may also stop at anytime.

Please feel free to talk to us before, during, or after your scan about any questions or concerns you may have.
During Your Scan

What are the technologists doing during the scans?

The MRI Technologist and the researcher will be present for your scanning and you will be able to see each other through the window to the control room if you are in an upright position.

As we scan and observe the images, we will often discuss the best way to get the information we need, so you may see us talking about your scans as we are working.

Feel free to ask us any questions you may have.
During Your Scan

What will I be asked to do?

You may be asked to stand, sit, or lie down. You may also be asked to keep your arms or legs in different positions or perform other simple postures. We will use bars, foam, and padding to support your body to make it easier to hold the positions.

If your study involves standing scans, you will be asked to wear fabric compression leggings around your calves that will gently squeeze your calves to increase blood flow from your legs to the rest of your body.

We would like you to hold as still as possible while we scan, usually from 2–4 minutes at a time for standing, and 5–10 minutes at a time for sitting and lying down.
During Your Scan

Comfort during the scan

Please tell us if you are uncomfortable in a certain position and we will help you adjust. **It is important that you don’t lock your knees and that you continue to breathe normally.**

The MRI Technologist and the Researcher may also need to touch you to properly position you for the scans. Don’t hesitate to let us know if you are uncomfortable with this.
After Your Scan

How will the scans/images of me be used?

At the Centre for Hip Health and Mobility, our focus is on researching health and mobility across the lifespan with a focus on bones, joints, muscle, cartilage, and tendons. We primarily use the Upright Open MRI images for research into joint motion & alignment, in healthy and disease states such as osteoarthritis.

Researchers and clinicians are working with the Upright Open MRI to find new ways to image the human body in order to solve some of the world’s most pressing healthcare challenges. Our results will have a profound impact on Canadian healthcare practices and indeed, the practices around the world.
After Your Scan

Will a doctor review my scans?

The images we acquire are used for specific research purposes, and are not reviewed by a radiologist. As such, this scan is not used to provide diagnostic information and will not replace a diagnostic MRI scan. If you have a concern about the area we are imaging, you are free to request copies of your scans to show a radiologist or physician of your choosing for review.

If the MRI Technologist sees something unusual, a radiologist will review the images, and the information will be forwarded to your physician. Again, the Upright Open MRI images cannot replace a diagnostic MRI exam at this time.
Thank you very much for your interest and participation in our research.