



Is it Safe for People Who Have Rods to Have an MRI?

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The Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation, Inc. is the only voluntary national health organization dedicated to helping people cope with the problems associated with osteogenesis imperfecta. The Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life for people affected by OI through research to find treatments and a cure, education, awareness, and mutual support.

MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging. It is a test that uses a strong magnetic field and pulses of radio waves to make pictures of organs inside the body. It provides information that cannot be seen on an x-ray. It is true that metal objects interfere with the test. People are asked to remove all metal objects such as watches and rings before entering the machine. Even so, people with OI who have rods and other surgical metal can still safely have an MRI if needed. There may be some shadowing directly around the rods, but images are generally good in the areas above or below the rod, and useful information can be obtained.

Titanium rods interfere the least with the MRI signal. Most rods are stainless steel or alloy, and they do interfere somewhat with the imaging around the rods. Stainless steel rods may cause pain during the test. A CT scan has less interference but isn't good for looking at the spinal cord or disc. The doctor who orders the MRI can talk to the radiologist supervising the test to be sure that it will yield enough information, given the type and location of the rods. It's a good idea for everyone to keep a record of rods including when they were implanted, the type of rod and the type of metal it was made out of.

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For more information about osteogenesis imperfecta contact:



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