

## A COMPARISON OF CT VS. MRI

	CT	MRI
<b>Radiation exposure</b>	The effective radiation dose from CT ranges from 2 to 10 mSv, which is about the same as the average person receives from background radiation in 3 to 5 years.	None. MRI machines do not emit ionizing radiation.
<b>Cost – most costs include anesthesia, monitoring and reading fees.</b>	Costs range between \$1000-2000 based on the number of sites requested as well as need for general anesthesia vs. sedation.	\$2000-2250 for one site
<b>Time required to complete scan</b>	Typically 10-20 minutes – some studies can be done under sedation	Typically 40-60 minutes – due to the loud noises during the study, anesthesia is required
<b>Effects on the body</b>	CT can pose the risk of irradiation. Painless, noninvasive.	No biological hazards have been reported with the use of MRI.
<b>Application</b>	Suited for bone injuries, nasal/ear, thoracic & abdominal imaging, detection of metastatic disease, and soft tissue structures outside the CNS.	Suited for soft tissue evaluation, particularly those surrounded by bone - spinal cord, brain, ligaments and tendons within joints

**\*\*For patients where brain or spinal cord disease is suspected, we recommend seeking a neurologist consultation prior to requesting outpatient imaging.\*\***