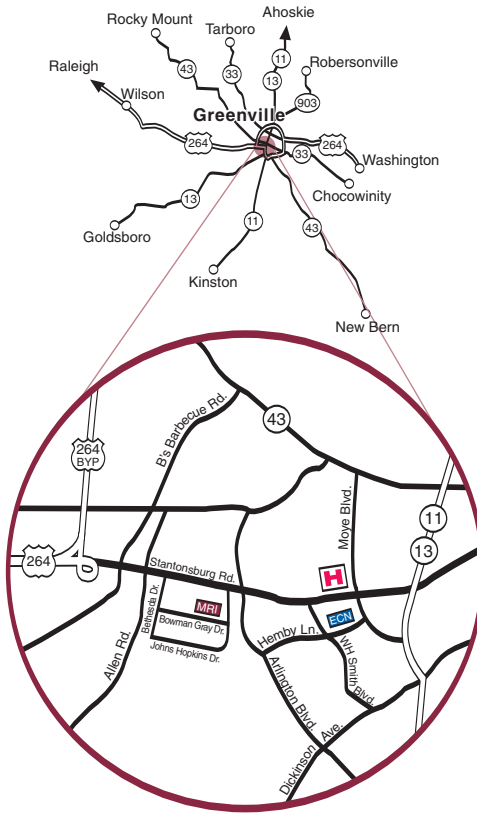


### How Does It Work?

A high powered magnet system is used in conjunction with radio waves to cause hydrogen atoms in the body to give off faint signals. Those signals help to form visual images of your internal organs.

Unlike X-Ray or CAT scans, no ionizing radiation is used. MRI creates greater image contrast among soft tissue, allowing better diagnoses and early detections of disease. MRI works by altering the local magnetic field in tissue, causing normal and abnormal tissue to respond differently, thereby giving differing signals. Your physician can view anatomic areas in any direction or plane to further provide new and important perspectives. This is one of the main differences between a MRI scan and a CT scan, which is limited to only one plane. The only way for a physician to have a better view of you, than the images provided on a MRI, is through surgery.



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A Division of East Carolina Neurology, Inc.  
An Affiliate of the Brody School of Medicine at  
East Carolina University—Division of Neurology

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 8 am – 8 pm

# MRI OF EASTERN CAROLINA



## Diagnostic Imaging Technology

# What is MRI?

# Medical Staff



The Nobel Prize in Physics, awarded to Felix Bloch and Edward Purcell in 1952 for their discovery of nuclear magnetic resonance, laid the groundwork for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). On July 3, 1977, Drs. Raymond Damadian, Larry Minkoff and Michael Goldsmith realized the culmination of seven years of research. Producing a MRI image on a human being took almost five hours to make. This breakthrough revolutionized the medical community. Five years after the introduction, there was a limited number of MRI scanners in the United States. Today there are thousands, and MRI imaging can now be done in a matter of minutes, instead of hours.

## **MRI Tests Assist in the Diagnosis of:**

- Stroke, in the Early Stages
- Tendonitis
- Tumors of the Pituitary Gland and Brain
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Infections in the Brain, Spine or Joints
- Masses in the Soft Tissues of the Body
- Torn Ligaments in the Wrist, Knee and Ankle
- Shoulder Injuries

## **Your Results**

Following the interpretation of your MRI examination, the results will be forwarded to your physician.

## **MRI Precautions**

When you first arrive at the MRI center, you should make the personnel aware if you have a pacemaker, prosthesis, surgical clips or other metal objects in your body. If you do, a decision will be made whether you should proceed with the exam. You will also be provided with a locker for safekeeping of your personal effects.

## **Payment and Insurance**

MR imaging is more expensive than many other outpatient diagnostic tests. However, the MR exam can mean performing fewer of the traditional test procedures. Many insurance companies, including Medicare and Medicaid, cover most of the cost.

We are a provider for Medicare and most major insurance plans. We provide insurance billing. Anything not covered by insurance will be your financial responsibility.

We request payment at the time of your appointment for services that are not covered by insurance. Your insurance company may also require you to pay a co-payment at the time of your appointment. When necessary, our staff will work closely with patients who require a payment plan.

If you have any questions regarding which insurance plans we accept, or any patient billing concerns, please call us at (252) 752-9000. Questions regarding your coverage and benefits should be directed to your employer or insurance company.



**Dawn Riddle** has been the Lead Technologist and Administrator for MRI of Eastern Carolina since 1990. She has been associated with East Carolina Neurology since 1982, first as a CT/Carotid Doppler Technologist. A graduate of Pitt Community College with an Associate of Science Degree in Radiologic Technology, Riddle has been certified by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists in Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Radiologic Technology.



**D. Frank Fleming, M.D.** is a native of Concord, NC. He is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Davidson College and completed medical school and residency at Bowman Gray School of Medicine. He trained in Pediatrics, Internal Medicine and Neurology. Dr. Fleming is a fellow of the American Academy of Neurology and is certified in CT/MRI Neuroimaging and Board Certified in Neurology.



**James S. Easterbrook, M.D.** is a native of Carmel, California. He is a graduate of Stanford University in California (B.A.), and received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. An internship was completed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and a residency in radiology followed at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, HI. Dr. Easterbrook is board certified in Diagnostic Radiology.

