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MRI Cost

How Much Does an MRI Cost?



With Health Insurance: **\$20-\$100 Copay**



Without Health Insurance: **\$1,000-\$5,000+**

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Magnetic resonance imaging uses a magnetic field and radio waves to create images of the body. MRIs are used to detect abnormalities, infections, injuries, tumors and other medical problems. In some cases, an MRI can produce clearer images than an [X-ray](#) or [CT scan](#). Most MRIs are typically covered by health insurance when deemed medically necessary. If deductibles are met, typical out-of-pocket cost consists of copays of **\$20-\$100** for the doctor visit and for the procedure.

Typical costs:

- A [spinal MRI](#) is used to find various spinal problems, including nerve damage or tumors. It typically costs **\$1,000 - \$5,000**, depending on the part of the spine being scanned and whether the procedure is performed in a hospital or physician's office.
- A [head MRI](#) creates detailed images of the brain and surrounding nerve tissue to detect neurological diseases or disorders. It typically costs about **\$1,000 - \$5,500** or more, depending on the complexity of the condition being monitored and whether the procedure is performed in a hospital or physician's office.
- A [cardiac MRI](#), which uses still or moving pictures of the heart and major blood vessels to diagnose coronary disease and other ailments, is considered a key test in assessing heart function. It typically costs about **\$1,000 - \$5,000**, depending on the complexity of the condition being investigated, including a **\$100 - \$200** doctor's fee.
- A [pelvic MRI](#) is used to diagnose or monitor various types of pelvic diseases or to clarify results from other tests. It typically costs **\$1,000 - \$5,000**, depending on the complexity of the condition being investigated and whether the procedure is performed in a hospital or physician's office.
- An [open MRI](#) is wider than an enclosed MRI and is often recommended for obese patients, those who struggle with claustrophobia, or patients whose joints are being examined. An open MRI typically costs about the same as a conventional MRI, about **\$1,000 - \$5,000**, depending on the parts of the body being examined.
- An [upright MRI](#) allows patients to be scanned while standing or sitting, which can be helpful in diagnosing certain conditions. An upright MRI typically costs about the same as a conventional MRI, about **\$1,000 - \$5,000**, depending on the parts of the body being examined.



Check Out All Costs for Health & Personal Care



How Much Does an X-Ray Cost?



How Much Do Body Piercings Cost?



How Much Does a Heart Stent Cost?

What should be included:

- Prior to the scan, the patient will need to remove any jewelry or clothing containing metal. Once the MRI technologist has positioned the patient, the patient will be asked to try to remain as still as possible. The scan typically lasts 30-60 minutes, but may take longer. The MRI technologist will be able to forecast how long the imaging will take ahead of time.
- WebMD offers a [detailed overview of MRIs](#).

Additional costs:

- An estimated 5%-10% of patients need a contrast solution, or special dye injected into the body, to further enhance the scan. The solution typically costs about **\$100 - \$300** extra.

Discounts:

- Some diagnostic imaging centers offer discounted prices of about **\$380 - \$560**, depending on geographic location. However, these centers typically cater to patients who pay cash and do not use health insurance.

Shopping for an mri:

- The American College of Radiology has a [search tool](#) to help patients find accredited hospitals, clinics or health centers in their area that perform MRIs.

Material on this page is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as medical advice. Always consult your physician or pharmacist regarding medications or medical procedures.

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Article updated March 2012

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How much should installation cost?

Paid: 4000.00
 I purchased a very nice engineered hickory at \$2.15 sqft. I need to get a few estimates for installation but would like to have a ballpark figure-range in mind... [more]

-Wondering in OC
[Hardwood Floors Cost](#)

echocardiogram (standard transthoracic)

Paid: 1768.00
 \$1598 for ultrasound, + \$386 for radiologist. Provider wrote off \$216 because charges exceeded what insurance allowed, so final bill was \$1768... [more]

-Brian P.
[Echocardiogram Cost](#)

Osteosarcoma

Paid: 7700.00
 My female 6 1/2 yr old Rottie was lame for most of the summer, in September found a mass on sternum. Major surgery performed mid October was a success, as soon as she was deemed healthy and healed by the surgeon she started chemotherapy... [more]

-macyssom

CostHelper News



10 Most Popular Cosmetic Procedures Before the Holidays

With reunions and other get-togethers scheduled during the holiday season, most people want to look their best at this time of year. For some, that means filling in those wrinkles with a bit of botox, or having a nip and tuck down here and there. || Posted November 23 2013

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How To Be Rationally Irrational Buying Lotto Tickets

Friday the 13th is considered bad luck, but this Friday, the multi-state Mega Millions lottery hits a jackpot of \$400 million dollars, the second largest jackpot in Mega Millions history. || Posted December 11 2013

Dog Cancer Treatment Cost

Shingles vaccination

Paid: 25.00

Covered by Aetna PPO. Got it @ local doc-in-the-box, where I was going anyway for pre-surgery (arthroscopy) clearance. My IM doc was out of town, so cldn't do the PE, labs, & EKG, & doesn't offer the shingles vacc anyway... [more]

-catslave.rch

Shingles Vaccine Cost

radiator , replace temp. flush, hose

Paid: 1600.00

After reading reviews, I have been over charged... [more]

-runnergirl1

Radiator Cost

Tune Up

Paid: 220.00

Car Make: Honda Car Model: CR-V (2001)... [more]

-Miko

Tune-up Cost

What People Are Paying - Recent Comments

Page 2 of 2 - << [Previous](#) [1](#) [2](#)

Head and Neck and Lower Lumbar MRI- 2 back to back

Amount: \$1,125.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: Paul Thomas in Lebanon, OR.

Posted: December 4th, 2013 10:12AM

Medical Center: Northwest MRI

Insurance: Self Pay

Amount Not Covered by Insurance: 1,125.00

I had back pain and no insurance. Longview WA wanted \$6000.00 plus a charge for reading the two MRI's. I drove 300 miles round trip to Lebanon OR and saved \$5000.00 plus.

No script needed, make appointment and let them do the work. Found out what I needed to find out. Good place to go. They raised their price a little but are still the best price around.

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Lumbar MRI in Bozeman, MT

Amount: \$1,600.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: K.W. in Bozeman, MT.

Posted: September 23rd, 2013 01:09PM

Amount Not Covered by Insurance: \$161

I went in expecting to pay 20% of \$1600. Hospital was straightforward and gave me a bill before the procedure in case I wanted to opt out. My insurance didn't allow them to charge \$1600, only \$850, so I paid the 20% of \$850. This sounded like an unbelievable deal to me but it was true! TGF good insurance!

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MRI Self Pay Option

Amount: \$500.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: Jim S. in Overland Park, KS.

Posted: February 7th, 2012 04:02PM

Medical Center: Diagnostic Radiology Institute

Insurance: NONE!

This is a great place that really was a life saver. Needed a lumbar MRI. Had no insurance but my doctor gave me a script. Called this place and was amazed at the price versus what I would have paid had insurance.

Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#)

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Brain scan w/ contrast, took 45mins **UPDATE**

Amount: \$3,300.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: Audra in milwaukee, WI.

Posted: February 6th, 2012 11:02AM

Medical Center: st. Lukes Aurora

Insurance: Allegiance

Our insurance gave us an EOB yesterday the MRI is going to cost us \$2700.00 and the contrast dye was \$600.00 so in total a 45 minute brain MRI with contrast dye at Aurora St. Lukes in Milwaukee, WI is \$3300.00 with Allegiance Medical Insurance.

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MRI - Brain Scan with contrast, took 45 mins

Amount: \$5,952.88 not covered by insurance

Posted by: Audra in Milwaukee, WI.

Posted: January 24th, 2012 04:01PM

Medical Center: St. Lukes Aurora

Insurance: Allegiance

Husband went in for an MRI due to a suspected Pituitary Gland Tumor. (tumor was found although it was too small to require surgery; another MRI is scheduled in a year to see if it grows.) The total charge of an MRI with Contrast injection of the Brain was almost 6k. However, our health insurance has put off the process claims until they receive requested notes for the MRI service; I don't know why they "need" the notes but whatever... I don't

know what the cost is going to be after our Insurance pays it's share. I'll probably update this. when we finally receive an EOB of what exactly our out of pocket is going to be.

I just wanted to let any of you in the Milwaukee Area without insurance going in for a similar procedure that out of pocket NO insurance for an MRI is \$5952.88 good luck out there to anyone who is need of reading this.

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MRI KNEES --RIPPED OFF IN NJ

Amount: \$5,000.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: sad in nj in hackettstown, NJ.

Posted: January 4th, 2012 07:01PM

Medical Center: HACKETTSTOWN DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

Insurance: BC/BS

I was having surgery on my knees for osteoarthritis, my MD ordered both knees and sent me to the outpatient center at the Hospital. Got the bill for MRI \$10,000.00 for both knees and to read the films another \$2500. My wife worked for a facility a few years before and was floored..

My insurance paid \$1500 for the reading and \$3000 for the imaging with the explanation that they paid 70% of Usual and Customary based on \$1500 per knee and I was responsible for 30% of that. When I called and questioned the bill they told me they never received the checks that I dropped off personally to the billing department and my insurance reissued the checks. So, now they are saying that I owe the \$7,000.00 balance?? How do I fight this. I checked around and MRI joints range from \$1200 to \$2000 in my area. This place is a rip off and he owns all the facilities in my town.

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MRI no insurance, Self Pay

Amount: \$500.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: Al in DFW in Dallas, TX.

Posted: October 18th, 2011 03:10PM

Medical Center: Gateway Imaging in Dallas

Insurance: none

No Insurance, Self pay. \$500. MRI of my brain for pituitary gland tumor. You have to shop around and not use major medical centers. MRI through hospital would of been \$7500.

Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#)

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Emergency Abdomen MRI

Amount: \$330,000.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: TPDunn in York, PA.

Posted: August 31st, 2011 08:08AM

Medical Center: York, Pa

Insurance: BCBS of TX.

The insurance paid all be \$9,000.00. Yes the numbers are correct and I am questioning it thru BCBS of TX. After reviewing some websites, this bill may have been for ALL the MRIs the Hospital did on that Friday night.

Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#)

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MRI Over Priced

Amount: \$7,000.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: Sand Blaster in Chippewa Falls/Eau Claire, WI.

Posted: July 15th, 2011 04:07AM

Medical Center: St Josephs Hospital and Medical xray con

Insurance:

My Podiatrist requested an MRI of my ankle (2 views)

The bill before Ins. 'discounts' was;

St. Josephs Hospital (procedure): \$6,127.06

(3126.56 + 3000.50)

Medical xray consultants (read MRI): \$965.00

(474.30 + 490.70)

My "responsibility" after Ins. is;

Procedure: \$1,090.52

Read MRI: \$197.82

Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#)

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MRI

Amount: \$7,234.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: annie arch in LITTLETON, CO.

Posted: June 20th, 2011 09:06AM

Medical Center: SWEDISH MED CENTRE DENVER

Insurance: UHC

HAD A MRI FOR CANCER THEY TOLD ME IT WOULD BE ABOUT 4000 TOTAL.IT TOOK 20

MINUTES!!IN,INSURANCE WIPED DISCOUNT OFF 2500 THEN AGAIN 2530 THEN INSURANCE PAID1900,I

OWED 350\$However I ran the numbers nothing would make sense.They are ripping us off!

Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#)

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Emergency Room Visit - Outrageous Cost

Amount: \$22,661.11 not covered by insurance

Posted by: BernJ in Richardson, TN.

Posted: May 22nd, 2011 08:05AM

Medical Center: Medical City Dallas

Insurance: Yes

Cheaper to Die. I was admitted to the emergency room due to symptoms of a heart-attack, unable to communicate for approx. 4 hours and therefore feel I was taken advantage of--during the testing. Even more scarier was I do believe they mis-diagnosed after doing research, I think I had a blood clot (TIA) not transit global amnesia. Anyway upon receiving my bill with the testing and approx. 7 hours of observation it cost more than I paid for my vehicle. I almost had a heart attack when I received the bill and even questioned if it was mine, due to the fact when released another patients medical info was attached to mine. Just blood work was \$3782.45, I'm 59 nine years old and rather fit, query why they checked me for drugs such as cocaine/meth/barb (drugs I probably would never recognized let alone use). Unbelievable!!!! MRI was \$12,207.95. I'm retired and have decent ins. but it scares me to death because I have no idea what my ins. co. will pay and whatever remains I will be responsible for--and yet those who are not even citizens can go in have babies, get sewn up, then leave and never pay. This is America or at least I thought it was. I've worked hard all my life and paid my taxes and hopefully have been a solid citizens, but I'm fed up with our political party in Washington always wanting to give handout to those who don't even belong here. It would be wonderful if someone had the guts to

step-up to the plate and control these cost, it seems hospitals can charge whatever because there are no guidelines/rules. In addition to the above I was charged over \$700.00 just for the ambulance service, hospital is approx. 12 minutes away. One pill cost \$184.00 this is criminal. Sad and Sicker than before!!!! Please advise if there is any recourse in this situation.

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Back MRI

Amount: \$7,190.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: Darryl in Nashville, TN.

Posted: March 22nd, 2011 12:03PM

Medical Center: Skyline Medical Nashville TN

Insurance: Southern Benefits

Outrageous cost. I had asked about the cost when I went in and was assured it was under 3k the entire system is broken, I am communicating with my insurance carrier now, the hospital will do nothing.

I do not mind paying a fair cost but a 20 minute test should in no way cost 7k. If they ran it around the clock the machine will generate 2 Billion per year at that rate. I understand the machines cost about 1 million. This is just a Total Outrageous Ripoff. There is no way to justify such actions by a medical facility, these are supposed to be people that we can place our trust in. THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS BROKEN.

Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#)

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Lumbar

Amount: \$797.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: Ms Sherri in Decatur, GA.

Posted: March 11th, 2011 03:03PM

Medical Center: Dekalb Medical

Insurance: MVP Healthcard

Had not met \$2400 deductible

Cost to me was \$797

Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#)

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Abdominal MRI with contrast

Amount: \$522.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: Daivid in Los Angeles, CA.

Posted: March 5th, 2011 12:03PM

Medical Center: Ceader Sinai Hospital

Insurance: Anthem PPO

MRI with contrast \$6420

Discount \$1200

Insurance paid \$4700

Coinsurance \$ 520

Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#)

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MRI, Upper Extr Joint W/O Contrast

Amount: \$1,223.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: Mark Damon in Portland, OR.

Posted: February 14th, 2011 09:02PM

Medical Center: Siker Imaging, LLC

Insurance: Blue Shield Blue Cross

1223.00 Total Cost

629.19 Insurance paid

483.52 Patient Balance

Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#)

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Lumbar MRI

Amount: \$400.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: Kevin from GA in Norcross, GA.

Posted: February 2nd, 2011 07:02AM

Medical Center: Greater Georgia Imaging

Insurance: none

Had an MRI done here. Really nice people, no wait and the results were ready the same day!

Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#)

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Brain Scan

Amount: \$485.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: M. Bender in Lebanon, OR.

Posted: January 8th, 2011 08:01AM

Medical Center: Advanced Imaging

Insurance: None

Recently opened Low Cost MRI center to assist those with no insurance. Routine MRI scans are done with no waiting for \$485. It's about time somebody is doing something about the high cost of medial care! Highly recommend

Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#)

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Lumbar spine MRI

Amount: \$10,800.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: Back Pain Sufferer in san pedro, CA.

Posted: December 8th, 2010 12:12PM

Medical Center: Little Co of Mary

Insurance: SCAN

MRI of spine - cost was \$10,800+ but I only paid \$78.00 and insurance picked up the rest. I'm fortunate that I have good insurance, however, I think the cost insurance paid was absurd.

Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#)

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Insurance Rip Off

Amount: \$9,300.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: Ripped off in Philly in Philadelphia, PA.

Posted: October 19th, 2010 05:10AM

Medical Center: University of Pennsylvania

Insurance: Personal Choice

Abdominal MRI. Insurance paid for it but the bill was absurd. If an MRI machine costs \$1 mill and they perform 8 procedures a day for \$2K each the machine is paid for in 63 days.

The cost of the equipment obviously plays no role in the fees my insurance company paid. I could go on but what is the point? Our medical care system is broken.

Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#)

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Great Prices on MRI's

Amount: \$600.00 not covered by insurance

Posted by: T W in Knoxville, TN.

Posted: June 29th, 2010 06:06PM

Medical Center: Samaritan Diagnostics **Insurance:** Self Pay
 Samaritan Diagnostics has prices around the \$600 range for MRI's. They contract with providers around the country for people without insurance and for people with high deductibles. My dad saved \$600 on a 24 hour holter monitor with them.
 Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#) Report [prohibited](#) or [spam](#)

Over priced MRI
Amount: \$5,696.00 not covered by insurance **Posted:** May 20th, 2010 10:05AM
Posted by: Paul Aubert in Santa Rosa, CA. **Insurance:** United Health
Medical Center: Sutter Hospital
 My doctor sent me for a brain MRI scan with dye to check the pituitary gland. Sutter billed \$5696 for the procedure, ins covered \$3484, my bill \$2121!!! I came to this blog as I was checking for comperative pricing. This bill is outrageous... Shop around before you book..My doctor's office is affiliated with Sutter. Really???
 Was this post helpful to you? [yes](#) [no](#) Report [prohibited](#) or [spam](#)

Lower Back MRI
Amount: \$550.00 not covered by insurance **Posted:** April 25th, 2010 12:04PM
Posted by: Bert in Garden Grove, CA. **Insurance:** No
Medical Center: Garden Grove Medical Center
 I think I was lucky to spend on the lower end of the scale for an MRI on my back. I have a bulging disc between L5 and S1. (Which is still driving me nuts) My Chiropractor was able to negotiate me a better deal because I paid cash.
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Comment On Your Experience With an MRI

Subject: *

Amount Spent: * not covered by insurance

Medical Center: **Insurance:**

Amount Not Covered by Insurance:

Comments:

Purchased: **Year:**

City: * **State:** *

Information about you:
Email: * Email addresses are not displayed.
Name: This is the name we'll display with your post.
 Remember me on this computer

*=required field.

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