Edmonton Cardiology Consultants

Cardiac MRI

What is a Cardiac MRI?

Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) uses a powerful magnetic field, radio waves and a computer to produce detailed pictures of the structures within the heart. It is used to detect or monitor cardiac disease and to evaluate the heart's structure and function. Cardiac MRI does not use ionizing radiation, and it may provide images of the heart that are better than other imaging methods for certain conditions.

Common uses for a Cardiac MRI:

- Evaluating the anatomy and function of the heart chambers, valves, size and blood flow through major vessels, and surrounding structures such as the pericardium (the fluid filled sac that surrounds the heart).

- Diagnosing a variety of cardiovascular (heart and/or blood vessel) disorders such as tumors, infections, and inflammatory conditions.
- Evaluating the effects of coronary artery disease such as limited blood flow to the heart muscle and scarring within the heart muscle after a heart attack.
- Planning a patient's treatment for cardiovascular disorders.
- Monitoring the progression of certain disorders over time.
- Evaluating the effects of surgical changes, especially in patients with congenital heart disease.
- Evaluating the anatomy of the heart and blood vessels in children and adults with congenital heart disease.

Preparations:

1. Please take your medications as prescribed, unless otherwise notified by your doctor and/or cardiologist and/or Nurse Practitioner.
2. Please bring a list of all current medications you are taking.