

# Special Procedures (Interventional Radiology)

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Interventional Radiology (or IR) is a subspecialty of Radiology when minimally invasive procedures are performed using image guidance. The concept behind IR is to diagnose or treat pathology with the most minimally invasive techniques possible. IR procedures can reduce infection rates, recovery times, and shorten hospital stays. As a result, many IR procedures are performed with conscious sedation. General anesthesia is not usually necessary. Most IR procedures are performed on an outpatient basis, and some may require a very short hospital stay.

All IR Technologists at Methodist Medical Center are registered with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists® and are registered in Vascular Interventional Radiography. Nurses are Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support certified.

## Services:

- Biopsies (such as lungs, liver, kidneys, thyroid, lymph nodes, bones, bone marrow, and other soft tissue)
- Port Placements
- IVC Filters
- Tunneled Pleural Catheter Placement
- Hemodialysis Catheter Placement (Permcath)
- Pleurx Catheters
- Joint Injections
- Peritoneal Dialysis Catheters
- Paracentesis
- Thoracentesis
- Percutaneous Abscess Drainage
- Lumbar Puncture
- And, many other specialized procedures may be available

## Exam Information:

- You will be required to report to the Outpatient Admitting entrance of the hospital up to two hours prior to your procedure
- Patients must have an adult drive them home and help care for them after discharge
- **Always inform the technologist or nurse if you are pregnant or may be pregnant.**
- Patients on blood thinners may be required to stop taking the medication prior to the exam. Contact your prescribing physician before stopping any medication
- Most IR exams will require patients to be NPO (without food/drink for six hours) in order for the exam to be completed
- If you are diabetic, please contact your ordering provider to determine the safest way to prepare for your exam

# Special Procedures (Interventional Radiology) (cont)

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A technologist or nurse will call the patient prior to the procedure and review pertinent patient information and history, i.e. prior exams, current medications, etc., and answer any questions. Upon arrival, patients will be registered and prepared for the exam (i.e. medical history, IV line started if required, site preparation, etc.).

The Interventional Radiologist will explain the procedure prior to the exam and consult with you and your family to help answer questions. The procedure may require conscious sedation with an IV. Patients are monitored at all times by a nurse.

Procedure times will vary according to the type of procedure that is ordered.

**Please call (865) 835-4700 if you have questions regarding your exam preparation.**

A technologist will explain the procedure prior to the exam and help answer questions.

**If you have scheduling concern, please call (865) 835-4700.** If requested by your physician, a CD will be provided prior to your discharge.

\*Results should be available within 48 hours and will be sent to your ordering physician. Results can be viewed on your personal patient portal 96 hours after dictation.