

Off-label 1.5T external fixator protocol

Applies only to DePuy Synthes external fixators

Upon request for MRI in a patient with a DePuy Synthes external fixator that cannot be scanned according to the manufacturer's conditions, the MRI technologist will contact a radiologist with the order information.

The radiologist will review the case and discuss it with the ordering provider(s). If the radiologist agrees to proceed, the radiologist will contact the MRI technologist and specify which exam(s) and sequences are to be performed, limiting the scan time as much as possible to minimize risk to the patient.

The MRI technologist will:

- Follow standard safety procedures including completing the remainder of the MRI screening and meeting conditions for any other implanted devices
- Confirm that the rods are non-metallic (e.g., carbon fiber)
- Position the patient in the 1.5T bore in a manner such that the external fixator remains greater than 1cm from the walls of the bore at all times
 - The 3T scanner will NOT be used
- Apply ice packs to all contact points between the patient and the external fixator
- Use normal operating mode only
- After each sequence, confirm with the patient that there is no heating sensation (alert and oriented patients) or examine the skin to ensure no heating (all other patients)
- If heating is observed by the technologist or reported by the patient, the examination will be terminated and the details documented