

# X-Rays, CT Scans & MRIs

Gyro There's an old saying that "a picture is worth a thousand words." Say zucchini!

All Zucchini!

Neutrino A picture of the inside of your body may be worth more than that!

Lumina Today, we're here to talk to you about 3 different ways we take these "medical images" or "medical pictures."

Chron Now they are: X-rays, CT scans, and MRIs.

Gyro X-rays are invisible and pass through your body to make a "medical picture." They don't hurt a bit. In fact, you can't even feel them!

Lumina This picture allows us to see important information inside your body.

Gyro While helpful, an x-ray only gives us part of the story since it's a flat image taken from one angle. But what if you want to see something from the side? Or from the back? This is what a CT Scan lets us do.

Lana Short for "computed tomography," a CT scanner takes a whole lot of x-rays from different angles to create a three-dimensional image of your body.

Lana During a CT scan, you lay down on a table. Your job is to hold your body still. Sometimes patients can get "sleepy medicine" if they need help staying still.

Lana The table moves through a "tunnel" that sort of looks like a huge donut. You can just lay back and let the machine do all the work.

Lana And don't worry...the machine doesn't touch you. Here's what a CT scan looks like.

Lumina CTs still use x-rays, and x-rays aren't great at showing details of soft tissue -- like your heart and lungs for instance.

Lumina To help us get an even better look, we sometimes use a machine called an MRI.

Lumina Like a CT scanner, MRI images can be taken from different angles.

# X-Rays, CT Scans & MRIs

Maru Hey, but unlike x-rays and CTs, MRIs use “magnetic resonance imaging” - hoo hoo, big words, huh -- which are strong magnetic fields and radio waves.

Maru Now the MRI machine doesn’t touch you and it doesn’t hurt. Really! But it makes some very loud sounds. Now, these sounds...ah, they just mean the MRI is doing what it's supposed to do. Know what I mean? So don't be scared, eh!

Maru Hey, you can bring a blanket or something soft with you too, eh. But you can’t have anything metal on you or with you because of the strong magnetic field.

Maru Here is what we might see if we looked at the same patient with an X-ray, a CT, and MRI. Cool, eh?

Gyro We use these different tools for different jobs. The most important thing you can do is to hold very still, so that the pictures don’t come out blurry. So just relax, hold still, and we’ll get a good picture!