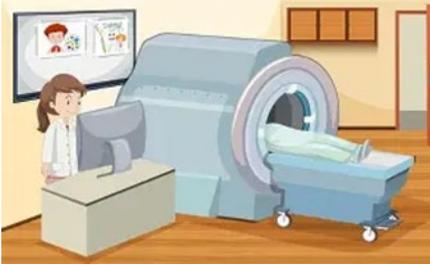


Barb's Medical Minute

MRI OR CT SCAN?



MRI, or Magnetic Resonance Imaging, uses powerful magnets and radio waves to create highly detailed images of soft tissues. No radiation is used. (Good, I don't want to glow in the dark!). It is helpful for diagnosing issues with the brain, nerves, organs, muscles, ligaments and tendons. The drawbacks are that they take longer than a CT scan, and some can't tolerate the enclosed space. There are more open MRI's now, so that's an improvement.

CT, Computed Tomography, uses x-rays to take cross- sectional images of the body, and is particularly useful for viewing bones, lungs, and blood vessels. CT scans are quick, making them a good option when fast results are needed—such as checking for bleeding after a head injury.

So in short, MRI offers detailed views of soft tissue, while CT excels at imaging bones and certain urgent conditions. There, I love when things are explained and simplified, then my brain doesn't hurt.