MRI Guidelines

Axonics Sacral Neuromodulation Systems

For use in Canada

MR

Instruction for Use

℞ only

Note: Read this manual in its entirety before performing a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan on patients who are implanted with the Axonics SNM Systems. This document contains information related to MRI use with the Axonics SNM Systems. Refer to the Axonics SNM System product manuals for more detailed information about non-MRI aspects of implantation, programming, charging and use of the components of the Axonics SNM Systems.

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GLOSSARY

B1+rms (root-mean-squared, μT) – the root-mean-squared value of the MRI effective component of the RF magnetic (B1) field or, in other words, the time-averaged RF magnetic field component relevant for creating an MR image that is generated by the MR system during a scan. In 2010, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) recommended that all MR systems manufactured going forward must display B1+rms. Therefore, B1+rms value may only be available on MR scanners acquired after 2013 or an older MR scanner with software updated.

Circularly Polarized (CP)/ Quadrature (QD) Mode – a type of RF coil operation mode, where circularly polarized is also commonly known as quadrature.

Cylindrical MR systems – a type of MR scanner generating horizontal static magnetic B_0 field, also known as closed bore systems.

Detachable Extremity RF Transmit/Receive Volume Coil – a coil used to transmit/receive RF energy for upper and lower extremities.

Detachable Head RF Transmit/Receive Volume Coil – a coil used to transmit/receive RF energy at the head region.

Hertz (Hz) – a unit of frequency defined as cycles per second. One Megahertz (MHz) is one million cycles per second.

MRI – Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

MR Conditional – an item with demonstrated safety in the MR environment within defined conditions, including conditions of the static magnetic field, the switched gradient magnetic field and the radio frequency fields. Additional conditions, including specific configurations of the item, may be required.

MR Unsafe – an item which poses unacceptable risks to the patient, medical staff, or other persons within the MR environment.

Multichannel-2 (MC-2) mode – an RF transmit mode typically used for high field MR scanners (3T or higher to improve B1+ field homogeneity.

Radio Frequency (RF) – high frequency electromagnetic fields whose frequencies are in the range of 10,000 Hz and above. The RF used in the 1.5T MRI Scanner is about 64 MHz. The RF used in the 3T MRI Scanner is about 128 MHz.

Sacral Neuromodulation (SNM) – a type of electrical stimulation therapy that uses mild electrical pulses to stimulate the sacral nerve located in the pelvic region.

Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) – radio frequency power absorbed per unit of mass (W/kg).

Tesla (T) – the unit of measure of magnetic field strength. One T is equal to 10,000 gauss.

W/kg – Watts per kilogram, a measure of the power that is absorbed per kilogram of tissue.

Whole-Body RF Transmit/Receive Coil – a coil used to transmit and to receive RF energy that encompasses the entire body region within the MR scanner bore.

1. MRI Safety Information

The Axonics Sacral Neuromodulation (SNM) Systems are, per the definition in ASTM F2503-20, **MR Conditional**. In-vitro tests and simulations have shown that patients with the Axonics SNM System may be safely exposed to MRI environments that follow the guidelines described in this document.

Always obtain the latest MRI guidelines. Refer to the contact information on the last page of this manual, or go to: www.axonics.com/mri

Other implanted devices or the health state of the patient may require additional restrictions on MR conditions.

1.1. MR Conditional Devices 

- Axonics R15, Neurostimulator Model 1101 with Tined Lead Model 1201/2201
- Axonics F15, Neurostimulator Model 4101 with Tined Lead Model 1201/2201
- Axonics R20, Neurostimulator Model 5101 with Tined Lead Model 1201/2201

Non-clinical testing has demonstrated that the Axonics SNM System implants, i.e., the Neurostimulator (Models 1101, 4101, and 5101) and Tined Lead (Model 1201/2201), are **MR Conditional**. Patients with these devices can be safely scanned in an MR system meeting the following conditions:

1.1.1. For MRI Examinations Using a Whole-Body RF Transmit Coil

A patient implanted with the Axonics SNM System may be safely scanned anywhere in the body at 1.5T or 3T MRI using a whole-body RF transmit coil under the following conditions. Failure to follow these conditions may result in injury to the patient.

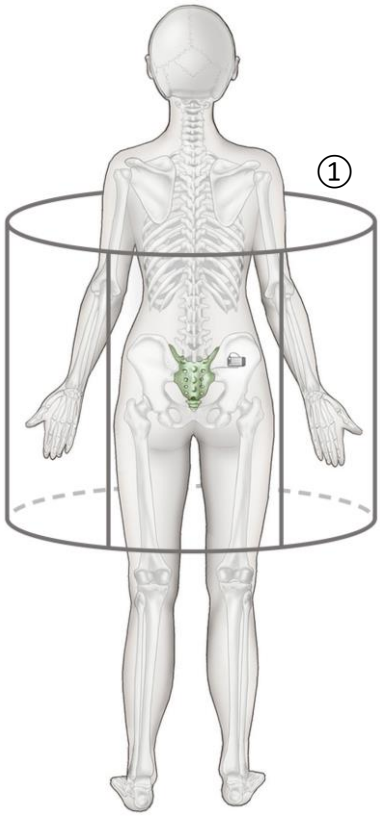


Figure 1-1: MRI scan using ① whole-body RF transmit coil. Any receive-only coil can be used for the appropriate body parts.

Parameter	Condition
MR Conditional	Yes
Eligible Axonics Devices	Neurostimulator (1101, 4101, 5101) Tined Lead (1201/2201)
Device Configuration	Device must pass MR readiness check (see section 4.1), Stimulation OFF, and Specified implant locations only
Static Magnetic Field Strength (B_0)	1.5T and 3T
Type of Nuclei	Hydrogen/Proton Only
MR Scanner Type	Cylindrical
B_0 Field Orientation	Horizontal
Maximum Spatial Field Gradient	2500 gauss/cm (25 T/m)
Maximum Slew Rate	200 T/m/s per axis
RF Transmit Coil Type	Whole-Body
RF Receive Coil Type	Any
Operating Mode	Normal Operating Mode
RF Conditions	**For 1.5T Scanner:** Whole-Body SAR ≤ 2 W/kg. RF Excitation: Circularly Polarized (CP)
	For 3T Scanner: B1+rms ≤ 2µT; for MR scanners that do not report B1+rms, limit Whole-Body SAR ≤ 1.6 W/kg RF Excitation: Circularly Polarized (CP) or Multichannel-2 (MC-2)
Scan Duration and Wait Time	Maximum 30 minutes of continuous scan time is allowed, followed by a wait time of 5 minutes if this limit is reached.
Scan Regions	Any body part is acceptable
Image Artifact	The presence of the Axonics SNM System may produce an image artifact. Some manipulation of scan parameters may be required to compensate for the artifact.

Note: Specific Axonics SNM system programming settings are required for safe whole-body MRI scanning. Please use Appendix A: Worksheet for MRI Scan Eligibility Using Whole-Body RF Transmit Coil and follow Section 4.1 Before Starting MRI Using a Whole-Body RF Transmit Coil.

1.1.2. For MRI Examinations Using a Detachable Head, Upper Extremity, or Lower Extremity RF Transmit/Receive Volume Coil

A patient implanted with the Axonics SNM System may be safely scanned at the head or extremity at 1.5T or 3T MRI using a detachable head, upper extremity, or lower extremity RF transmit/receive volume coil under the following conditions. Failure to follow these conditions may result in injury to the patient.

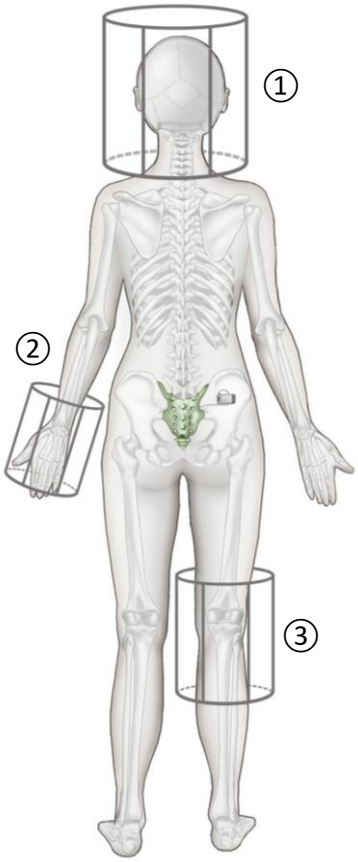


Figure 1-2: MRI scan* using detachable ① head, ② upper extremity, or ③ lower extremity RF transmit/receive volume coil

Parameter	Condition
MR Conditional	Yes
Eligible Axonics Devices	Neurostimulator (1101, 4101, 5101) Tined Lead (1201/2201)
Device Configuration	Stimulation OFF
Static Magnetic Field Strength (B_0)	1.5T and 3T
Type of Nuclei	Hydrogen/Proton Only
MR Scanner Type	Cylindrical
B_0 Field Orientation	Horizontal
Maximum Spatial Field Gradient	2500 gauss/cm (25 T/m)
Maximum Slew Rate	200 T/m/s per axis
RF Excitation	Circularly Polarized (CP)
RF Coil Type	– Detachable Head RF Transmit/Receive Volume Coil – Detachable Upper Extremity RF Transmit/Receive Volume Coil – Detachable Lower Extremity RF Transmit/Receive Volume Coil
Operating Mode	Normal Operating Mode or First Level Controlled Operating Mode
Scan Duration	There is no limit on scan duration
Scan Regions	Head, Upper or Lower Extremity
Image Artifact	No image artifact should be seen from a head or extremity MRI scan.

*Illustrated in Figure 1-2 are typical use scenarios of detachable RF transmit/receive volume coil. Other scanning scenarios are also permissible according to MR scanner/coil manuals. For example, an MRI scan of the ankle with a detachable lower extremity RF transmit/receive volume coil or an MRI scan of the upper arm with a detachable lower extremity RF transmit/receive volume coil in the superman posture is permissible given the aforementioned scan conditions are met.

Note: Please follow Section 4.2 Before Starting MRI Using a Detachable Head, Upper Extremity, or Lower Extremity RF Transmit/Receive Volume Coil.

1.2. MR Unsafe Devices

The external components of Axonics SNM System, including the Clinician Programmer, Remote Control, Charger and Dock, and External Trial System (External Pulse Generator and percutaneous leads and cables) are **MR Unsafe**. These devices must **NOT** be brought into the MR scanner room.

Clinician Programmer (Model 1501/2501)

Remote Control (Model 1301/2301)

Charger and Dock (Model 1401)

External Pulse Generator (Model 1601), percutaneous leads and cable (Model 1901, 9009, 9014)

Figure 1-3*:* **MR Unsafe** Axonics Devices

2. WARNINGS

Read and fully understand the guidelines before conducting an MRI scan – Do not conduct an MRI examination on a patient implanted with the Axonics SNM system until you have read and fully understood all the information in these MRI guidelines. Failure to follow all warnings and guidelines related to MRI scanning could result in serious and permanent injury.

When a Whole-Body RF Transmit Coil is used – Apply the required B1+rms or the SAR limits in the Normal Operating Mode only. Do not conduct MRI scans in the First or the Second Level Controlled Operating Modes as it may increase the risk of unintended stimulation and excessive heating for whole-body scans. This MRI Guideline document applies to hydrogen/proton imaging/spectroscopy only.

When a detachable Head or Extremity RF Transmit/Receive Volume Coil is used – Do not conduct MRI scans in the Second Level Controlled Operating Mode as it may increase the risk of unintended stimulation and excessive heating.

Assess neurostimulator implant location prior to an MRI scan using a Whole-Body RF Transmit Coil – Figure 2-1 shows the typical implant location and lead pathway inside a body. The neurostimulator pocket and lead insertion point could be ipsilaterally or contralaterally located. The neurostimulator should be implanted in either the left or right upper buttock area of a patient for MRI scan eligibility using a Whole-Body RF Transmit Coil. Whole-Body MRI scans on a patient with a neurostimulator implanted in locations other than the posterior hip/upper buttock area are untested and may cause unintended stimulation, device damage, or excessive heating, which could result in pain or injury to the tissues surrounding the implants.

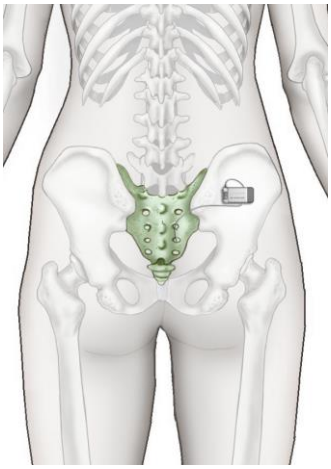


Figure 2-1: Axonics SNM System implant location eligible for MRI scan with Whole-Body RF transmit coil (Neurostimulator 1101 is shown as an example)

Avoid exposure to unapproved MRI conditions – Non-clinical testing has shown that exposure of the Axonics SNM System to MRI at a B1+rms or SAR level above the limits stated in Section 1 of this manual could induce significant heating at the lead electrodes, device malfunction, and/or unintended stimulation. Excessive heating could result in injury or other damage to the sacral nerve and/or tissue surrounding the lead electrodes.

Avoid off-label MR scanning of Axonics device – MRI safety has only been evaluated on the Axonics SNM System for sacral neuromodulation. Performing MRI on an Axonics SNM System that stimulates nerves other than the sacral nerve may cause serious and permanent injury.

Ensure appropriate supervision – A responsible individual with expert knowledge about MRI, such as an experienced MR technologist, MRI radiologist or MRI physicist, must ensure all required procedures and conditions in this guideline are followed.

3. POTENTIAL RISKS OF MRI WITH THE AXONICS SNM SYSTEM

The potential risks of performing MRI on a patient with an implanted Axonics SNM System that were considered in testing and analysis by the manufacturer include:

- Heating effects around the Axonics SNM System, especially the lead electrodes, from radio-frequency (RF) energy
- Unintended stimulation due to current induced through the SNM lead wire by the switched gradient magnetic field and/or RF field
- Magnetic field interactions including magnetic force and torque
- Device malfunction or rectification due to current induced through the SNM lead wire by the switched gradient magnetic field and/or RF field
- Image distortion and artifacts

3.1. Heating Effects

MRI-related heating is primarily influenced by location of the patient in the MR scanner, implant (both neurostimulator and lead) location inside the body, lead trajectory, and integrity of the lead and neurostimulator. If the specified MRI conditions are not met, heating at a lead electrode can be higher than the established safety threshold. This may lead to burn injury or other damage to the sacral nerve and/or surrounding structures, which may be associated with pain and discomfort.

3.2. Unintended Stimulation

Non-clinical testing suggests that gradient induced or RF induced current is small. If the MRI scan is performed under the conditions specified in Section 1, unintended stimulation to the surrounding tissue is unlikely. Risk of tissue damage due to current induced by the switched gradient magnetic field or RF field is very low. It might be possible for a sensitive patient to experience mild stimulation during the scan. If a patient experiences any uncomfortable stimulation while in MRI, he/she should inform the MRI technologist immediately and then contact their physician.

3.3. Interactions with the Static Magnetic Field

The Axonics SNM System may experience magnetic field interactions with the MRI system due to small amounts of material in the Neurostimulator being sensitive to magnetic fields. This may cause the Neurostimulator to shift or move slightly within the implant pocket and may place mechanical stress on tissues and the lead. Patients may feel a slight tugging sensation at the site of the Neurostimulator.

3.4. Device Malfunction or Damage

Device malfunction or damage is highly unlikely if MRI scans are performed following the guidelines described in this document. If device malfunction or damage were to occur, it could cause discomfort, unintended stimulation, painful stimulation, or direct current stimulation, which may result in nerve damage and other associated problems. If a patient suspects a malfunction, he/she should be instructed to exit the MR scanner room. The patient should then immediately contact their physician for further evaluation.

3.5. Image Distortion and Artifacts

There is minimal image distortion when the device is out of the field of view. Significant image distortion can result from the presence of the device within the field of view. Careful choice of pulse sequence parameters and location of the imaging plane may minimize MR image artifacts.

Please note that the extent of image artifacts is dependent on multiple factors and the MRI technologist is encouraged to use scan parameters that minimize the image artifacts. General principles for minimizing image distortion may include:

- Avoid using the body receive coil if possible. Use a local receive-only coil instead.
- Use imaging sequences with stronger gradients for both slice and read encoding directions. Use higher bandwidth for both radio-frequency pulse and data sampling.
- Choose an orientation for the read-out axis that minimizes the appearance of in-plane distortion.
- Use a shorter echo time for gradient echo technique, whenever possible.
- Be aware that the actual imaging slice shape can be curved in space due to field disturbances from the neurostimulator.
- Identify the location of the implant in the patient, and when possible, orient all imaging slices away from the implanted neurostimulator.

3.6. Other Precautions

3.6.1 For patients with other implanted devices in addition to the Axonics SNM Systems, consult the appropriate device manufacturers for MRI eligibility of those devices.

3.6.2 MRI safety has not been evaluated under the following conditions: an intact tined lead without a neurostimulator, a partially implanted lead, a malfunctioning neurostimulator, or a neurostimulator with low impedances on any electrodes. If a patient has an abandoned lead fragment, the patient is eligible for 1.5T MRI scanning under the MRI conditions stated in Sections 1.1.1 and 1.1.2.

3.6.3 Transverse Field MR systems (Open MR scanners) have not been evaluated for scanning patients with the Axonics SNM System.

3.6.4 External components of the Axonics SNM System were not evaluated for MRI safety and therefore are considered **MR Unsafe.** They should **NOT** be brought into the MR scanner room. Refer to Section 1.2 MR Unsafe Devices for details.

3.6.5 No testing at magnetic field strengths other than 1.5T and 3T have been performed to evaluate MRI safety of the devices.

4. MRI GUIDELINES

Recommendations for MRI scanning with the Axonics SNM System are based on phantom tests, numerical simulations, and the recommended implant configurations of the Axonics Neurostimulator and Tined Lead. The guidelines below assume that no other implant devices are implanted in the patient's body. Refer to Appendix A of this document if a patient has multiple implanted devices.

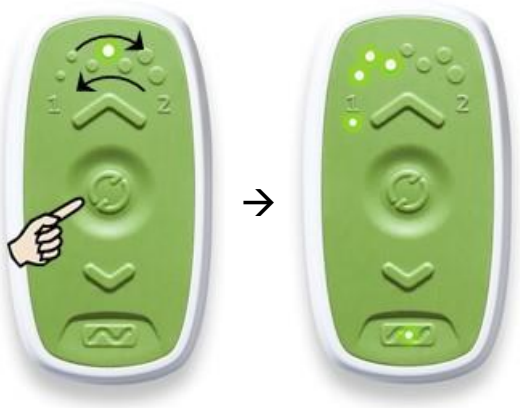
4.1. Before Starting MRI Using a Whole-Body RF Transmit Coil

- Confirm whole-body MRI eligibility by using Appendix A: Worksheet for MRI Scan Eligibility Using Whole-Body RF Transmit Coil.
- Using the patient Remote Control, check the device for MRI readiness by following the steps below (Do not bring the patient Remote Control into the MR scanner room):

  Note: If a patient does not have the patient Remote Control at the appointment or has a patient Remote Control manufactured before May 1st, 2020, the Clinician Programmer must be used instead. Refer to the Clinician Programmer manual for detailed instructions.

4.1.1. Push "Connect" on the patient Remote Control to connect to Neurostimulator.

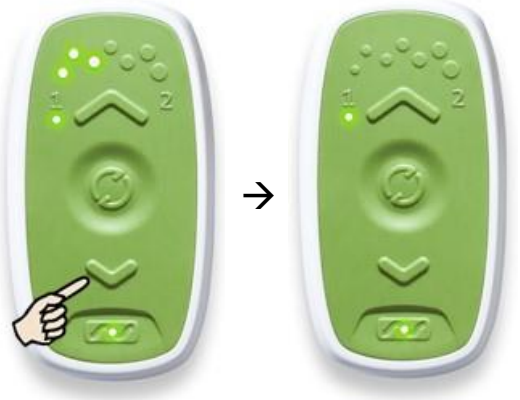
Note: The Stimulation Level lights will show the current stimulation amplitude.



4.1.2. Turn stimulation OFF by pressing and releasing the down arrow until all Stimulation Level lights are off.

Note: The Stimulator Battery Status light should be green to be eligible for whole-body MRI scan. For Neurostimulator 1101/5101 only, if the Stimulator Battery Status light is flashing orange or is solid orange, charge the Neurostimulator so the battery light is green. Refer to the Charging System manual for charging instructions.

Note: If the red System Error light is on and solid (not flashing), the system needs to be checked prior to an MRI scan.



4.1.3. To check MRI readiness, press and hold the down arrow for 5 seconds.

Note: The Active Program lights will flash back and forth, indicating MRI readiness check is in progress. It is normal for a sensitive patient to experience mild stimulation during the check. Once the check is complete, the patient Remote Control will vibrate.

a. If Stimulation Level lights #3, 4, and 5 are ON, the System is ready for whole-body MRI.

b. If the System Error light is red, see additional eligibility instructions (Appendix A).

a. device is ready for whole-body MRI

b. see additional MRI eligibility instructions

- Make sure the settings and parameters of the MR scanner meet all the conditions for Whole-Body RF transmit coil scanning listed in Section 1.1.1.

Warning: Do **NOT** conduct MRI scans using a Whole-Body RF transmit coil in the First or Second Level Controlled Operating Modes, as this may increase the risk of unintended stimulation and excessive heating.

4.2. Before Starting MRI Using a Detachable Head, Upper Extremity, or Lower Extremity RF Transmit/Receive Volume Coil

4.2.1 Determine if the patient has other medical device implants. Consult with the appropriate device manufacturers for MRI eligibility of those devices.

4.2.2 Turn the Axonics SNM Neurostimulator stimulation off with the patient Remote Control. Do not bring the patient Remote Control into the MR scanner room.

4.2.3 Make sure the settings and parameters of the MR scanner meet all the conditions for head, upper extremity, or lower extremity scanning listed in Section 1.1.2.

4.2.4 It is critical to ensure that the detachable head, upper extremity, or lower extremity RF transmit/receive volume coil is properly plugged in and selected for exclusive use by the MR scanner.

4.3. During the MRI Scan

4.3.1 Monitor the patient both visually and audibly. Discontinue the MRI examination immediately if the patient reports any problems.

4.3.2 During the MRI scan, the patient may feel slight tugging and/or vibration of the neurostimulator. If the tugging or vibration causes the patient significant discomfort, stop the MRI scan.

4.4. After the MRI Scan

4.4.1 Verify that the patient has not experienced any adverse effects as a result of the MRI. Contact Axonics, Inc. if the patient has experienced any adverse effects.

4.4.2 Turn the Axonics Neurostimulator stimulation back on with the patient Remote Control. If a patient suspects any unexpected change in stimulation after an MRI, he/she should contact their physician and should turn the stimulation off if uncomfortable.

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Appendix A: Worksheet for MRI Scan Eligibility Using Whole-Body RF Transmit Coil

This form provides information about the patient's implanted SNM system and MRI scan eligibility using a whole-body RF transmit coil. It should be completed by the implanting physician or a trained radiologist to support the confirmation of whole-body MRI scan eligibility.

- Refer to www.axonics.com/mri for labeling and safety conditions

Table 1: Basic Information

Patient Name	
Physician Name	
Office Address	
Phone	
Date	

Table 2: Patient Implant Configuration Information (ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED)

	Questions	Whole-Body MRI Eligible	Not Whole-Body MRI Eligible
1.	Is the device implanted to provide sacral neuromodulation therapy?	☐ Yes	☐ No
2.	Is the Neurostimulator implanted in the posterior hip / upper buttock area? Verify by checking patient's records, asking the patient where on their body they charge the Neurostimulator, by X-ray, or palpation.	☐ Yes	☐ No
3.	Is the device ready for whole-body MRI? Verify by checking "MRI Readiness" with the patient Remote Control. Follow the steps in Section 4.1.	☐ Yes	☐ No (see additional MRI eligibility instructions)
4.	Did you confirm that the patient **DOES NOT HAVE** an implanted device/part other than the Axonics SNM implant system?	☐ Yes	☐ No (contact the appropriate device manufacturers for MRI eligibility of those systems)
	Is the patient whole-body MRI eligible? (see next page)	☐ Yes	☐ No

- **If the answers to all 4 questions are "Yes", the patient is eligible for whole-bodyMRI. Follow the MRI conditions stated in Section 1.1.1.**
- **If any of the answers to questions 1 and 2 is No, the patient is NOT eligible for whole-body MRI.**
- **If the answer to question 3 is "No", additional MRI eligibility instructions are provided here:**

  Whole-body MRI scan is eligible for some specific cases, including if the patient has a high impedance reading or an abandoned lead fragment (in the case that the lead cannot be removed entirely, an abandoned lead fragment may be left in the body).

  - If high impedance (open) is reported, please follow the MRI conditions below:
    - For a patient with Neurostimulator 1101 or 5101, perform whole-body scan using 1.5T only with B1+rms ≤ 2.8 μT; if B1+rms is not reported, then limit wbSAR ≤ 1.0 W/kg.
    - For a patient with Neurostimulator 4101, perform whole-body scan using 1.5T only with maximum wbSAR of 2.0W/kg in Normal Operating Mode.
    - Maximum of 30 min of continuous scan time is allowed, followed by a wait time of 5 min if this limit is reached.
    - Follow all other MRI conditions stated in Section 1.1.1.
  - If the patient has an abandoned lead fragment, please follow the MRI conditions below:
    - For MRI scans using 1.5T RF Whole-body coil at Normal Operating Mode of whole-body SAR ≤ 2 W/kg.
    - Maximum of 30 min of continuous scan time is allowed, followed by a wait time of 5 min if this limit is reached.
    - Follow all other MRI conditions stated in Section 1.1.1.
    - Distance from the lead fragment to other metallic components is > 3cm.

    For a patient with a Medtronic SNM lead fragment, the additional conditions should be followed:
    - Medtronic SNM lead fragment length is ≤ 6 cm.
    - Medtronic SNM lead fragment is located in the sacral place.
    - Medtronic SNM lead fragment is one of the models distributed by Medtronic (Models 3093, 3889, 978A1/B1).
  - For other cases (e.g., an intact lead that is not connected to Axonics Neurostimulator, a partially implanted lead, or a malfunctioning Neurostimulator), the patient is NOT eligible for whole-body MRI.
- **If the answer to question 4 is "No", please perform MRI with extra caution following the instructions below:**

1. Prior to MRI scan, determine whether the patient has multiple implants (such as stents, hip implants, deep brain stimulation systems, implantable cardiac defibrillators, or other implants). If the devices other than Axonics SNM Implant System are also MR Conditional, and all parts are at least 20 mm away from the Axonics Implant System and each other, the most restrictive MRI exposure requirements must be used for each condition. If you are unclear what implants are present or have concern about the separation among different implanted devices, X-ray imaging should be used to confirm they are at least 20 mm apart. Consult with the appropriate device manufacturers with questions regarding those implants.
2. If a patient has two Axonics SNM Systems implanted for bilateral sacral neuromodulation therapy and if all parts of the two systems are at least 20 mm away from each other, the patient is eligible for MRI whole-body scan. If you have concerns about the separation of these two systems, X-ray imaging should be used to confirm the separation.

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