

# I R EDUCATION

**Interventional Radiology I.R.** is an exciting, growing area of Radiology. Treatments in I.R. are done by the least invasive methods possible. In many cases, we can reduce the need for surgery, a long hospital stay, and recovery time. We provide a full range of image guided therapeutic and diagnostic techniques. A variety of imaging tools such as computerized tomography, also known as C.T. or Cat Scan, Fluoroscopy (Fluoro) or “live” x-ray imaging and ultrasound are used to guide the interventional doctor, or radiologist, to see the internal structures of the body.

University of New Mexico Hospital’s I.R. team is made up of doctors, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, radiologic technologists, patient care coordinators and support staff working together to meet your needs.

## **Procedures done in I.R. include:**

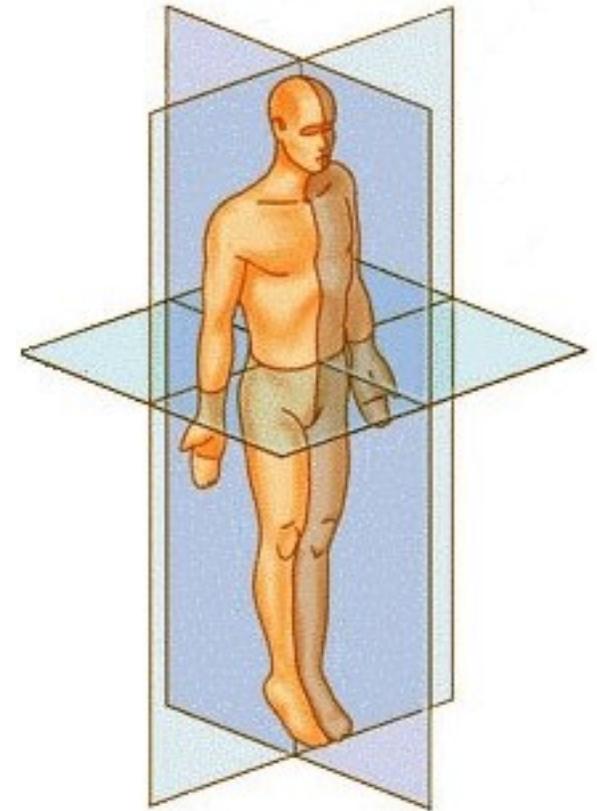
Ablation, Angiography/Venography, Cancer Treatment, Injection of Clot-Dissolving Agents, Discogram, Embolization, Epidural injection, Foreign Body Extraction, Feeding Tubes, Inferior Vena Cava (IVC) Filter Placement, Needle Biopsy, Percutaneous Drainage, Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA), Stent Placement, Trauma, Vascular Access, Vertebroplasty

## **Getting Ready For Your Procedure:**

Getting ready for your I.R. procedure is similar to getting ready for surgery. For most procedures, you will be asked not to eat or drink for 6 hours before your arrival time. For patients with diabetes, you will be asked not to take your diabetic medication on the day of the procedure. Please let us know if you take any medicine that thins the blood such as aspirin, Coumadin, warfarin, or Plavix. These medications may need to be stopped prior to your procedure. You will need to have someone to drive you home after your procedure.

## **How Is The Procedure Done?**

After you have checked in, a nurse will bring you to the prep area. When your prep is complete, a nurse will take you to the room where your procedure will be done. You will be asked to lie on a special x-ray table. Some procedures are done while you are awake, or you may be given medicine to make you sleepy. The length of time for your procedure may vary from as few as 30 minutes to several hours. After the procedure is done, you will be taken to the recovery area. Recovery times are different for every procedure. You may stay for several hours after your procedure is done. This is to make sure you are recovering well after your procedure.



## **X-Rays and Pregnancy:**

For our female patients, if you are or might be pregnant, tell the tech or nurse before your exam. Some procedures are not performed during pregnancy because the test can be harmful to the growing baby.