

Patient Information

Radiology

MRI - non-contrast

Introduction

Your doctor has advised that you have an MRI scan. MRI is a test which uses a powerful magnet and a computer to produce detailed images of any part of the body. It does not use X-rays. An MRI scan is performed by a radiographer.

This leaflet will explain what to expect in your MRI appointment and how you should prepare.

Please use the contact information on your appointment letter if you have any questions or concerns. If you feel unhappy with your care, please ask to speak to the superintendent radiographer.

Please read this leaflet carefully. It will help you prepare correctly for your MRI appointment

- Please contact the X-ray Department if your weight is 133 Kg (21 stone) or more. You may need a different type of procedure.
- If you bring young children to your appointment, please make sure they have someone to supervise them whilst you have your scan. Our team are unable to supervise children. If you bring children who require supervision, you may be asked to rebook your appointment for when you have childcare arranged.



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Points to remember

- Please bring any sprays or inhalers that you are taking with you.
- If you are on medication from your doctor, please continue to take them as normal.
- Please leave any valuable possessions at home.
- **Please arrive in the department at least 20 minutes before your appointment time.** This is important. We need this time to check your safety questionnaire and prepare you for your MRI scan.
- We may not be able to scan you if you arrive late. We will rearrange your appointment for another time if this happens.
- If we are unable to find out the MRI compatibility of any device which is within or attached to your body we will not perform the scan. Your new appointment will be made once the correct information is made available to the department.

Preparation your MRI scan

- Attend your examination in clothing that does not contain metal fastenings, zips, or decorations. If this is not possible, our hospital team will provide a hospital gown.
- Complete the safety questionnaire that has been sent to you. Bring it with you to your appointment.

MRI risks

No short-term harmful effects have been found from MRI scans. The use of magnetic fields is not thought to be harmful, although long term side effects are unknown.

Safety

It may not be possible for some patients to have a scan due to the magnetic field produced by MRI. Patients who have a pacemaker, ear implants, surgical clips or any implants within their head or body should contact the MRI department using the phone number on your appointment letter.

If you have had an accident involving metal fragments and your eyes, you should contact the MRI department using the phone number on your

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appointment letter. You will need to have an X-ray to confirm there are no metal fragments remaining. This must be arranged before your MRI scan.

Patients aged 12 - 55 years: Although the risk to babies in pregnancy is very small, you will be asked to confirm that you are not pregnant before your MRI scan. If you are pregnant, there are circumstances where the benefits of a scan outweigh the risks. You will decide this with your referring doctor.

What will happen when you arrive?

- Please go to the reception desk in the Radiology (X-ray) department. We will then direct you to the MRI department.
- You will be asked to undress and put on a suitable gown if needed. You can bring your own dressing gown.
- Please try to leave all of your valuables at home. You cannot take valuables into the scan room with you. You will be asked to remove any credit cards, valuables and metal objects including mobile phones, that are in your possession. They will stay with the radiographers whilst you have your MRI scan.
- You will be asked to remove coloured contact lenses and hearing aids before your MRI scan.
- We will check your safety questionnaire with you.

During your MRI examination

- The Radiographer will help you onto the MRI scanner table. This table moves into the open-ended MRI scanner. The radiographer operating the scanner can see you during the scan. It is important that you remain very still to help us get good quality pictures.
- The scan may take 20 minutes to 1 hour depending on the part of the body being examined.
- During the scan, you will hear tapping sounds which may become loud. This is normal. We will give you headphones or earplugs to protect your ears from the noise.
- Sometimes, even if gadolinium was not initially requested based on the referral notes provided by your doctor, the radiographer might decide during your scan that an IV injection of gadolinium would help the radiologist make a better diagnosis.

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- If you are over the age of 65, we need to know how your kidneys are functioning before we give an injection of contrast.
- In these instances, we will check our hospital system to find out whether an e-GFR result is available. If there is no result available, it is unlikely that your scan will be completed at that time. Therefore, the appointment will need to be rescheduled after you have had the e-GFR blood test.

After your examination

You can get dressed and go home when MRI scan is finished. Please contact your GP if you have any problems after the MRI scan.

Your results

The results will not be given to you immediately. They will be sent to the doctor who referred you to us for this examination once a formal report has been generated.

More information

If you have any questions or require more information, please contact the MRI department using the contact details on your appointment letter.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact the telephone number on your appointment letter and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

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