



MRI Scan

Information for patients

This leaflet is for patients who have been advised to have a MRI scan. It has been produced to give you a greater understanding of what the procedure will involve. It will try to answer your questions but if you would like any further explanation, please do not hesitate to ask.

What is a scan?

Scan is a word used to describe an examination of parts or a part of the body. There are many different kinds of scan and they are performed in different departments in the hospital.

What is an MRI scan?

MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) is a modern imaging technique, which uses a magnetic field and radio waves. No X-rays are involved.

It produces highly detailed images of various parts of the body and it is completely painless.

Advantages of an MRI scan

MRI scanning does not use radiation, which can damage body cells, which makes it one of the safest imaging techniques available. MRI scans can also be used to take pictures of any part of the body, and they provide more detailed information than X-rays.

Alternatives

Generally speaking, MRI provides a more detailed image than other scans and is better at showing the changes between different types of tissue. In some cases, however, depending on individual factors such as the symptoms present and the condition being investigated, there may be alternatives to having an MRI scan.

These will be discussed with you if necessary.



Risks

An MRI scan is completely painless and does not usually have any physical side-effects. You will have been asked to fill out a questionnaire prior to the scan as it will identify any specific risks that may prevent you from having an MRI scan. If you have not received a questionnaire, or have any queries please phone us on 01895 279060. This is particularly important and may save you a wasted journey.

What would prevent me having a scan?

- Having a pacemaker
- Having aneurysm clips or metal heart valves, or metallic fragments in the eyes.

We also prefer not to scan ladies in the early months of pregnancy.

Preparation before the MRI Scan

Unless requested to do otherwise, eat and drink as normal and please take your prescribed medicines. Ladies, please do NOT wear mascara.

When you arrive in the department

You will be asked to check your questionnaire. This is for your own safety and ensures that you are suitable for this type of examination. You will change into a dressing gown, having removed any metal objects you are wearing and garments that have metal on them. This includes jewellery but not rings. Depending on which part of the body is being examined, having an MRI scan may involve being enclosed in a fairly narrow space and for some people this feels quite claustrophobic. If you have any concerns about this, please let your doctor know beforehand.

The scan itself

You will be asked to lie on a couch. Once you are positioned and comfortable, all you need to do is relax and keep very still. A loud rhythmic knocking noise will be heard whilst the scan takes place. You may like to bring your favourite CD to listen to during the scan.

The radiographer operates the scanner from behind the window but they are able to see, hear and talk to you during the scan.



How long will it take?

Most MRI scans take from 15 to 40 minutes. Although every attempt is made to scan patients on time, delays may occur due to unforeseen circumstances.

Will I need an injection?

For the majority of examinations it is not required.

If you are having a pelvic scan we will give you an injection in the muscle of the leg. Occasionally it is necessary to give you a small injection in the arm or hand to obtain extra images. This should cause you no after effects.

What happens afterwards?

Your scan will be examined by a radiologist, who will send a report to your referring consultant. You should have a follow-up appointment to discuss the result. If you have any doubts or queries please feel free to phone us on 01895 279060 between the hours of 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Further information

If you want further information please feel free to phone us on Tel: 01895 279868. Open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Information is also available from NHS Direct at www.nhsdirect.co.uk or Tel: 0845 4647.



Languages/ Alternative Formats

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format. Please contact: 01895 279973

Fadlan waydii haddii aad warbixintan ku rabto luqad ama hab kale. Fadlan la xidhiidh 01895 279 973

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ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Jezeli chcialbys uzyskac te informacje w innym języku lub w duzej czcionce popros
pracownika oddzialu o kontakt pod numerem telefonu: 01895 279973

各國語言/模式選擇

若你需要以下資料改為其他語言，大寫，或其他模式例如收音式或
盲人字體的話，請電 01895 279973。

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