



Small Bowel MRI

Information for Patients

This leaflet gives more information to patients having a small bowel MRI.

What is a small bowel MRI?

This is a way to examine your bowel without using x-rays, but using MRI instead. MRI uses a very strong magnet to give detailed images of your bowel. A liquid mixture is given to you to drink to fill the small bowel so that it can be seen well on the scan.

Why do I need a small bowel MRI?

The decision to carry out a small bowel MRI is made by the clinical team responsible for your care and the radiologist, who will have decided this is the best way to examine your small bowel.

How do I prepare for a small bowel MRI?

You will be asked to have nothing to eat or drink for six hours before your appointment. Sips of water can be taken with medication. If you are diabetic and require further information please ring **01895 279060**.

What happens before a small bowel MRI?

In the waiting room you will be given a drink of one litre of dilute barium solution EZ-CAT. You will be asked to drink the bottle over a period of 45 minutes; this is to give good distension of the small bowel and to make sure that the solution has filled the whole of your small bowel. After this time has passed and you have drunk the solution you will be taken through for your scan.

What happens during the small bowel MRI?

You will first be asked to change into an examination gown or appropriate clothing you have brought with you (e.g. dressing gown or metal free clothing) You will also be asked to remove all jewellery.



While you change you will be asked to drink one further cup of the solution, this cup will contain a dose of maxalon (a medication that moves the solution from your stomach to your small bowel).

Once you have finished this cup you will be taken into the scanning room.

For your own safety, MRI staff will check through the 'safety questionnaire' that you will have completed when you handed in your form.

THE SCAN:

The radiographer will ask you to lie on the scanner table and in some cases get you to roll over a couple of times (this is to make sure the barium is coating your entire bowel). The scanner is open at both ends, lit and with a light breeze blowing through.

We will need to insert a cannula (a small needle) into your arm to give you a small amount of contrast agent (dye) to make the bowel wall more visible. We will also need to give buscopan (a bowel relaxing injection) through the cannula in your arm; this helps to reduce the movement of your bowel and make the pictures clearer.

During the scan (which will take approx 30 minutes) you will be asked to lie on your tummy, this position helps show more of the bowel on the scan. You will also be given breathing instructions through the headphones that you have to wear.

You should allow up to two hours in the MRI department for the examination to be completed.

What happens afterwards?

You can eat and drink normally after the examination. You will be given a leaflet which will explain any possible side effects, feel free to ask the radiographer if you have any questions.

The images need to be examined in detail by a radiologist, so we cannot give you the results straight away. You will receive your results at your next clinic appointment.

If you have any other questions or are worried about anything please contact the scanning dept on 01895 279060.



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

如果你需要這些資料的其他語言版本、大字体、或音頻格式，請致電01895 279 973 查詢。

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