



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI scan)





What is an MRI?

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a type of scan that uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body. An MRI scanner is a large tube that contains powerful magnets. You lie inside the tube during the scan.

An MRI scan can be used to examine almost any part of the body, including the:

- brain and spinal cord
- bones and joints
- breasts
- heart and blood vessels
- internal organs, such as the liver, womb or prostate gland

The results of an MRI scan can be used to help diagnose conditions, plan treatments and assess how effective previous treatment has been.

What are the risks and side effects?

MRI scans do not use X-rays and there are no known risks or side effects associated with MRI scans. MRI scans are not suitable for everyone and we need to be 100% certain that you meet the safety standards before entering the MRI scanning room.

Is there anyone who cannot have a MRI scan?

Yes, some things are affected by the magnet, if you have any of the following please contact us on 0800 652 4157

- cardiac pacemaker
- heart valve
- surgical clips
- metallic foreign bodies in the eye/body
- any possibility of being pregnant

Preparing for your scan

On the day of your MRI scan, you should be able to eat, drink and take any medication as usual, unless you're advised otherwise.

You must not wear clothing that contains metal when you have an MRI.

Please bring suitable clothes:

- T-shirt
- Legging
- Tracksuit bottoms

You should avoid wearing:

- Belts/jeans
- Hairclips
- Body piercings/jewellery/watches

At the appointment

When you arrive at the MRI unit you will be greeted by a member of staff who will go through your MRI safety questionnaire.

You will be asked to remove all metal objects from your person and will be able to place these in a locker. If your clothing contains metal (zips/poppers) you may be asked to change into a gown.

During an MRI scan, you lie on a flat bed that's moved into the scanner, depending on the part of your body being scanned, you'll be moved into the scanner either head first or feet first.

You will be given headphones to wear during the scan and the radiographer will be in contact with you during the scan and can always see you. You will also be given a buzzer to contact them at any time.

Once you are comfortable, the radiographer will move you slowly into the scanner which is open at both ends. It's very important to keep as still as possible during your MRI scan. Scans lasts 15 to 60 minutes, depending on the size of the area being scanned and how many images are taken.

During the MRI

MRI is completely painless, and you won't feel any discomfort during or after the scan. You may feel a slight vibration, but you won't feel anything unpleasant. At certain times during the scan, the scanner will make loud tapping noises. This is the electric current in the scanner coils being turned on and off.

Giving your consent for the procedure

This information is intended to provide you with an overview of the MRI scan procedure. Prior to any medical examination being carried out, the clinician will describe the nature of the examination.

It is your right to be given sufficient information to be able to make any informed decision as to whether you wish to continue with the examination.

Further information can be found at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/mri-scan/

What happens after your MRI scan?

A consultant radiologist, who specialises in interpreting MRI scans will assess your images and write a report on the findings. Your diagnostic report will be sent to your referring GP or specialist within a few days of your scan.



All enquiries:



0800 652 4157



appointments@healthsharediagnostics.org.uk



healthshare.org.uk

Important Information

This is a general patient information leaflet only.

The information you are given may be different to that provided here. This is because the information given to you is tailor made to your individual treatment.

It is very important that you follow the instructions that are given by your clinician.



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