

Information for patients having a MRI scan

What is an MRI scan?

An MRI Scanner is a large magnet which uses a computer to produce pictures of the inside of the body.

How long will it take?

You are advised to allow up to one hour in the MRI Department for the examination to be completed. This is not the time in the scanner.

Do I have to do anything before I come?

It is important that you read the safety information in the appointment letter carefully. Please fill in the safety questionnaire and bring it with you to your appointment

If you have a CARDIAC PACEMAKER fitted you cannot have an MRI scan.

Please let us know before your appointment if you have ever had METAL FRAGMENTS in your eyes.

We would prefer not to scan any patients that may be pregnant. You must let us know if you are pregnant before the day of the scan.

Do I need to bring anything with me?

Do not bring unnecessary amounts of money or valuables. You may wish to be accompanied by a friend or relative but they would not usually be able to go with you into the scan room.

What will happen before the scan?

The MRI staff will go through the safety questionnaire about your medical history with you. You may be asked to change into an examination gown. It is possible to wear your own clothes for the scan if they are loose fitting and do not have any zips or metal fastenings. It is important you do not enter the scan room with any metal objects. Lockers are provided to store your belongings.

What happens during the MRI scan?

You will be asked to lie on a flat table which moves slowly into the scanner. The scanner makes a loud tapping sound. You can stop the scan at any time.

It is very important that you do not move during the scan which will take approximately 30 minutes.

Are there any risks or side effects?

Current evidence suggests there are no known side effects from an MRI scan.

When will I get the Results?

The scans need to be processed by the computer and examined so we will not be able to give you the results straight away. The radiographer will advise you where and when to receive your results.

