



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI scan)

Radiology department

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What is MRI

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a method of obtaining images within your head or body without using x-rays.

It involves the use of a powerful magnet, radio-frequency waves and a sophisticated computer to produce detailed pictures with information not available from conventional x-rays.



What preparation is required?

You may like to prepare for your appointment by wearing a tracksuit or loose clothing without zips or metal fastenings.

Hospital gowns are provided, but while you are waiting, you may feel more comfortable in your own dressing gown.

If you do not wish to attend this examination alone, we request that you invite just one person, due to the size of our waiting area and the high volume of patients we examine.

On arrival

A trained member of our staff will ask you to complete a questionnaire prior to your scan. If you have any questions, please ask. All watches and credit cards must be removed as the magnetic field could damage them.

Please see important safety information in this leaflet.

The scan itself

This scanner has been designed to minimise the feeling of claustrophobia. After looking at the pictures of the scanner in this leaflet, if you feel that a pre-appointment visit would be useful please contact us on 01935 384376. We will be happy to arrange one.

During the scan you will be asked to lie very still on a couch. The scan will last approximately 30 minutes.

While the pictures are being taken, you will hear a rapid knocking noise. This should not cause you any problem.

We may need to give you a small injection in your arm which will highlight certain areas of your body.

Results are sent to your referring consultant. We are not able to give any results at the time of your scan.

Important safety information

Some people may not be suitable for MRI scanning. If you have any of the following, please contact us on 01935 384376, as soon as possible and at least 24 hours before your scan:

- Heart pacemaker
- Aneurysm clips in your head
- Any metal implant (joint Replacement)
- If you have ever had a metal splinter in your eye
- Are in the first three months of pregnancy

Questions or cancellations

If you have any queries or cannot keep your appointment, telephone as soon as possible on 01935 384 376.

We have a music system available within the scan room. You are invited to bring a CD or MP3 of your own choice with you to play during your scan.

It is advisable to arrive approximately 10-15 minutes before your appointment time to allow for the completion of preliminary paperwork.

If you would like this leaflet in another format or in a different language, please ask a member of staff.

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