

Preparation Information Sheet

MRI SCAN

What is it:

A magnetic field and radio wave examination of a part of your body with computer-generated, cross-sectional images of your insides. It occasionally requires intravenous injection of contrast medium into a vein, usually at your elbow or back of the hand.

What you must tell us beforehand:

If you have any metal implants of any kind, eg joint replacements.

If you have a pacemaker or neurostimulator implanted.

If you have worked with metal.

If you have renal impairment.

If you have significant claustrophobia.

If you have had any reaction to a contrast injection given for a previous MRI scan.

We will ask you to complete a questionnaire before the examination, and sign a consent to the contrast injection if it is required for your examination.

Preparation:

Head, Spine, Bones and Joints:

No preparation required.

Abdomen and Pelvis (including Rectum):

Fast 4 hours.

What happens:

You may need to change into a gown. You can wear comfortable soft clothing without any metal zippers or clips. You then lie on a bed which slides through the opening in the scanner. It slides in until the part being examined is in the centre of the scanner. A planning scan is then done followed by up to six different scans to show different features of the part examined. Each of these scans will take 30 seconds to 5 minutes to acquire, depending on the exact sequence. If contrast is required it is given just before the last 2 or 3 scans.

You need to keep perfectly still during each of the individual scans, otherwise the images will be blurred and may not be readable.

You may have to hold your breath for up to 30 seconds if scans are being done of your chest or abdomen. If you have significant claustrophobia, sedation can be given.

How long does it take:

20-60 minutes in total depending on the examination.

Special precautions:

Intravenous contrast won't be given if you have renal impairment.

Complications:

Allergic reactions to contrast material can occur but significant reactions are rare, and generally respond to adrenalin. Our staff members are equipped and trained to treat contrast reactions. Some scans create a slight sensation of heating. There are no adverse effects to the magnetic fields or radio waves used to generate the images.



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Your images and report:

After your examination, you will be given a copy of the most pertinent images from your study. A report will be given to you with the images, or sent directly back to your referring doctor by fax or email. We will store digital copies of all studies on our secure database for comparison with any future examinations.

Please bring any previous x-rays with you for comparison.

It is important that you return to your doctor with your examination results. Whether they are normal or abnormal, your doctor needs to know promptly so that a management plan can be formulated.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIABETICS:

If your examination requires fasting, then book an early morning appointment and have your breakfast and diabetic medication after the examination.

If your examination will require an intravenous injection of contrast medium, we need to know your renal function. Please bring along the results of your most recent blood test creatinine level.