

MRI scans in NF2 patients with hearing implants

Information for patients and relatives



As part of the monitoring of NF2, it is important that we scan your head at least once every year, and your spine at least every three years.

An MRI scan uses strong magnetic fields to take very detailed pictures of your head and spine. Normally we ask people to remove any metal work (belts, jewellery etc.) before we do the scan. However, if you have a cochlear implant (CI) or an auditory brainstem implant (ABI), this means the procedure for scans is slightly different because there is a magnet just under the skin in your head.

We try not to remove this magnet for the scan because this can sometimes cause an infection. If the magnet is repeatedly removed, the housing that covers it is more likely to break down. We are able to perform an MRI scan safely without removing the internal magnet by bandaging your head to support the implant.

Head bandaging

In order to complete an MRI scan safely with the magnet in place, a plastic card is applied over the magnet and is kept in place by a pressure bandage. The bandage will feel tight but should not be too uncomfortable and can be taken off straight after the scan.



Pain relief

Some patients experience discomfort during scanning. Most patients are able to tolerate this without the need for painkillers. However, Paracetamol can be taken before the scan. Some patients have found the scan particularly uncomfortable and have needed an injection of local anaesthetic around the implant.

If you have any questions, please ask a member of the NF2 team who will be happy to discuss this with you.

Contacts/Further information

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**We hope you have found this leaflet helpful.
We would welcome any comments and suggestions for
future editions.**

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk**

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