

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Having an MRI scan

Information for patients



Your doctor has referred you for a magnetic resonance imaging scan (MRI). This information leaflet tells you about the scan, how to prepare and what happens during your scan.

What is an MRI scan?

MRI scans use a strong magnetic field and radio waves to make pictures of the inside of your body. The results of the MRI scan will help your doctor to diagnose your problem. During your scan the scanner will make a loud banging noise, but we will give you ear protection to dampen the noise. For some types of scan we can play you music through headphones.

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.

What happens in the MRI unit?



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

You will be asked to remove all metal objects from your person and will be able to put these in a locker. If some of your clothes contain metal (such as poppers or zips) you may be asked to change into a hospital gown.

When you have your scan you will need to lie flat on the table. The radiographer will move you slowly into the scanner, which is open at both ends. You will need to lie still so we don't get blurry pictures.

The radiographer will be in contact with you at all times during the scan, and will always be able to see you. They will be in regular communication and you will be given a buzzer to contact them at any time.

Scans take anything from 10 minutes to an hour. The radiographer can tell you approximately how long your scan will take.

In order to help with a diagnosis, we may have to give you an injection as part of your scan. Some examinations may also require you to make other specific eating or drinking preparations. These will be detailed in your appointment letter, if necessary.

After the scan the images will be examined by the radiologist, who will prepare a report on their findings. This will be sent to the clinician who referred you for the scan.

Important information about preparing for your scan

You must not wear clothing that contains metal when you have your MRI. Please bring suitable clothes to change into, or we can give you a hospital gown to wear.

You can wear:

- a T-shirt ✓
- leggings ✓
- tracksuit bottoms ✓
- pyjamas ✓
- a nightdress ✓

You should not wear:

- a bra ✗
- jeans ✗
- a belt ✗
- hairclips ✗
- zips ✗
- jewellery/watch/
body piercing ✗
- any make-up ✗
*(as this contains
small amounts of metal)*

How to contact us

If you need to contact us, all the contact numbers are given in your appointment letter.

Further information

NHS Choices

www.nhs.uk/Conditions/MRI-scan/Pages/Introduction.aspx

An informative video is also available on our hospital YouTube page:

<http://tinyurl.com/ouhmri>



If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk**

January 2016
Review: January 2019
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www.ouh.nhs.uk/information

