

Division of Imaging

Information for Patients/Carers

Paediatric Magnetic Resonance Imaging

What is Magnetic Resonance Imaging?

A Magnetic Resonance Image (MRI) is a way of taking pictures of the inside of your body by using magnets instead of X-rays. We use a special magnet that gives the pictures in more detail.

The MRI scanner is a hollow machine with a tube running horizontally through its middle. Your doctor has selected this examination as the most appropriate investigation for you.

What happens during an MRI scan?

- A trained specialist called a radiographer will perform your MRI scan
- You may be asked to change into a hospital gown.
- You might be asked to remove certain items of clothing and jewellery.
- The person completing the procedure will ask you to confirm some details including date of birth and pregnancy status.

Before the scan, a nurse or radiographer will check you or your parent(s) do not have a pacemaker, metal implants or clips. You have to lie inside the scanner, and you must keep very still while your pictures are being taken. Your parent can stay with you in the room during the scan.

Depending on the part of your body being scanned, you may need to have a coil over part of your body or wear a head coil (this will not touch your head).

When you are in the correct position, the radiographer will move the bed inside the scanner and then go into the control room. The scanner makes a loud 'knocking' sound when it takes your picture so you will be offered ear protection.

Depending on which hospital you are having your scan at, you can bring a CD of your own to listen to using headphones whilst your scan is carried out. Please contact the number on your appointment letter for more information.

When the scan has finished, the radiographer will move the bed out of the scanner, and you can get up and leave.

Will I feel any pain?

You cannot feel the MR scans, so the procedure itself is painless. On some occasions we may need to inject you with an x-ray dye, you may feel a sharp scratch when we first inject you with the needle.

It is important to get you into the correct position. Holding this position / lying on a table may, for some people, feel uncomfortable, but for the majority of patients this is not the case.

Are there any risks with this examination?

There are no known risks from having an MRI scan itself, although it can be dangerous to go into the scan room if any of the following apply:

- Pregnancy
- Heart pacemaker/valve
- Surgical clips
- Inner ear implants
- Any metallic foreign bodies
- Any metal implants from surgery

Contrast risk

We might need to give you contrast dye to make areas of your body show up more clearly.

One of the radiology staff will give you this using a small needle inserted into a vein in your arm or the back of your hand.

The radiographers will complete a checklist to ensure it is safe for you to have the dye and you will be asked to sign this form as a consent, the specific side effects are documented on the checklists that you complete.

The contrast dye that is sometimes used can cause allergic reactions however the staff available will be checking for any risks before we proceed.

Extravasation risk

Contrast dyes (liquids) that are given to patients having an MR or CT scan are usually given by injection into a vein in your arm or hand. Occasionally the injection may leak out from your vein into the tissues under the skin – this is known as extravasation.

If this has happened, you may experience a stinging sensation where the contrast has gone into the tissue, and it can be painful. This will usually wear off after about 30 minutes.

Is there anything I need to inform you of before I attend for my appointment?

Pregnancy:

If you are or think you may be pregnant you must tell the radiographer before the examination.

The radiographer may check your pregnancy status with you before the examination.

Each examination request will be checked by the radiographer to make sure it is properly justified and necessary.

It is often the first point of investigation to help the doctor decide if any other forms of imaging or tests are needed.

How do I prepare for my MRI scan?

Clothes and accessories:

Anything metallic has to be removed before entering the MR scan room. You will need to leave metallic objects like jewellery, watches, keys, pens or cards with metallic strips like bank cards and train tickets in the lockers outside the scanner room. It would be easier if you wore clothes without zips or poppers for the scan, otherwise we will ask you to change into a hospital gown.

Help and support in the department

If you have any medical problem which you feel may affect your safety in the department, or if you feel you may need any assistance, please let us know when you arrive.

Do I need to give my permission (consent)?

The radiographer will ask you if you are happy for the examination to go ahead. This is called verbal consent and might only involve the radiographer checking you are booked for the correct examination.

If you do not wish to have the examination or are undecided, please ask the radiographer so that they can answer any questions you may have.

Remember, it is your decision. You can change your mind at any time and your wishes will be respected.

However, not having the examination may delay your diagnosis as the referring clinician may not have all the needed information.

How long will it take?

The scan typically takes 15-40 minutes depending on the area of your body we are scanning.

The images are recorded, and the radiographer will check them briefly to make sure that they can be used to make a diagnosis.

When it is completed, you will be allowed to leave the examination room.

The radiographer will usually not be able to give you any idea of the results at that time.

What happens after an MRI scan?

The radiographer may ask you to wait in the department while they check that no more images are needed.

As soon as the radiographer is satisfied that no more scans are needed, you will be free to leave the department.

If you have had a contrast dye injection, we may ask for you to wait for 10 minutes before you leave the department. This is to make sure that you are feeling ok and there is no sign of any allergic reaction to the dye you have been given.

You can eat and drink as normal and get back to your usual activities straight after the scan.

When will I get my results?

The images will be studied by a radiologist (a doctor who uses x-rays to diagnose and treat illness) and the results will be sent to the person who referred you for the examination.

You may already have an appointment with the clinician who referred you. If not, please contact them to arrange a time to talk about the results and any treatment you may need.

If you are staying in hospital, the results will be given to the doctors looking after you on the ward.

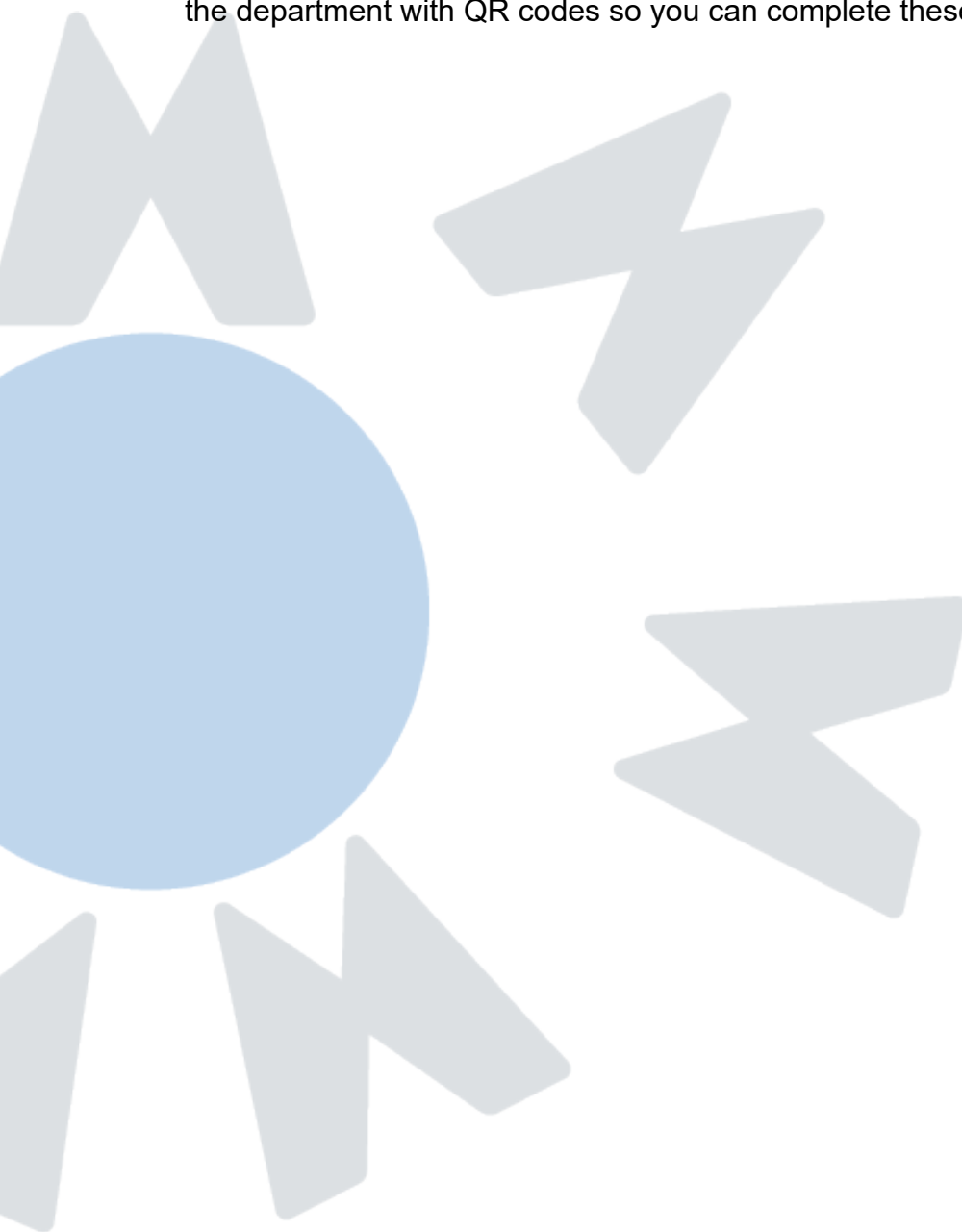
What should I do if I have a problem?

You should not have any problems that is a result of the MRI scan.

If you feel your condition has changed, or you need further medical advice before receiving your results/after leaving the hospital, please make an appointment with the doctor that referred you, or in an emergency, go to your nearest Emergency Department (ED).

How can I provide feedback for the appointment I have attended today?

The Division of Imaging welcomes feedback from all our patients. We actively take part in the Friends and Family Test, and we complete a patient experience questionnaire every month to obtain feedback on the experiences you have had. Please speak to a member of staff regarding the feedback or there are posters within the department with QR codes so you can complete these online.



Contact us

For contact information please refer to your appointment letter or if you are an inpatient, please direct your queries to one of the medical staff on the ward

Language and accessible support services:

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch.

Your comments and concerns

If you would like to provide feedback you can:

- Ask to speak to the department lead / manager.
- Write to us: Patient Advice and Liaison Services, 1st Floor, Cobbett House, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9WL.
- Log onto the Patient Opinion website www.patientopinion.org.uk/ click on 'Tell your Story'

If you would like to discuss a concern or make a complaint:

Ask to speak to the department manager – they may be able to help straight away. Inpatients can speak to a senior nurse or manager by contacting the Tell Us Today service on (0161) 701 1999.

Contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (0161) 276 8686 email: pals@mft.nhs.uk. Ask for our information leaflet.

We welcome your feedback so we can continue to improve our services.

NHS 111

This service offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

Telephone: 111, 24 hours a day
Website: www.111.nhs.uk

Finally

Some of your questions should have been answered by this leaflet but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you. Further information can be obtained by contacting the radiology department that is performing the procedure.