

Having an MRI Scan

Radiology Department

This leaflet tells you about having a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan and it explains what is involved.

It is not meant to replace any discussion between you and your doctor.

What is an MRI scan?

MRI uses a large magnet and a powerful computer which produces high quality images of the area of the body the doctor has asked us to scan.

MRI does not involve any X-rays or ionising radiation.

How long will it take?

The scanning process will take between 20-50 minutes, examinations of more than one area or complex specialised procedures may take longer.

We do try to run on time but occasionally the MRI Department will have to respond to emergencies which may delay your scan. We would keep you informed if this occurs.

What do I need to know before the scan?

Important Information:

Please read the following carefully as failure to do so may mean we are unable to carry out your scan when you arrive

Do you:

- Have a pacemaker, internal defibrillator or artificial heart valve?
- Have any surgical clips in your head or body?
- Have any medical devices implanted in your body?

Have you:

- EVER had any metal fragments enter your eyes or body?

Are you or might you be pregnant?

If any of the questions above apply to you, please phone the MRI Department to confirm whether you are able to have the scan. The department can be reached Monday to Friday between 9am and 8pm on: 01902 695927.

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- **Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available**
- **If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111**
- **Keep the environment clean and tidy**
- **Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.**

Is there any preparation for the scan?

You can eat and drink normally before you come for the scan, unless advised otherwise in your appointment letter or by the person making your appointment.

Please complete the safety questionnaire enclosed and bring it with you to your appointment; this will be checked through with you prior to your examination.

You will be shown to a private cubicle to get changed into an examination gown, so you may wish to bring your own dressing gown to wear over the top of this when in the waiting area.

Do not bring unnecessary amounts of money or valuables and please keep jewellery to a minimum as you will be asked to remove it before the scan. This also includes any metal objects worn for religious reasons. If you are unable to remove it this may result in us not being able to perform the scan.

We are unable to offer a child minding service so please do not bring young children with you.

The examination will be explained to you and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions.

If you wear a medicated skin patch, such as nicotine or HRT, you will be asked to remove it before your scan. Please bring a spare one with you to put on after your scan.

What happens during the MRI scan?

You will be taken into the scanning room and asked to lie on the examination couch in a certain position; comfort aids such as straps and pillows may be used to help maintain the correct position during the examination.

The couch will then be moved slowly to place the part of your body under investigation within the scanner.

During the examination you will hear a persistent loud drumming noise and it is very important you remain as still as possible. You will be given headphones to help reduce the noise.

The radiographers will move to the control room but you will be able to talk to them via an intercom when the scanner is quiet and they will be watching you all the time.

When you enter the MRI scanner special lights will be used to ensure that you are properly positioned. You will be given a buzzer which can be used to attract the radiographer's attention if necessary.

During the scan you may be asked to hold your breath while the images are being produced but this is dependent on the area being scanned.

Occasionally it may be necessary to give an injection of dye; this helps the radiologist to see the area of interest more clearly. It will not affect your ability to drive but you will have to drink plenty of fluid after your scan to flush the dye out of your body.

Do you have any allergies or reactions?

If you suffer from hay fever, asthma, heart or kidney problems or have had a reaction to drugs in other tests, please let the radiographer know before the examination.

Are there any risks or side effects?

MRI scanning involves a strong magnet but provided you have answered the safety questionnaire correctly and followed the instructions given to you, the risks from an MRI scan are minimal.

Side effects

The injection (if given) can cause side effects for a minority of people.

The vast majority of these reactions are mild, including coldness at the injection site, nausea with or without vomiting, headache, warmth or pain at the injection site, dizziness and itching.

Allergic reactions are very rare (0.004%-0.7%), a rash or hives are the most likely.

More serious (Anaphylactic type) reactions are exceedingly rare (0.001%-0.01%).

If a reaction does occur it is usually immediate and doctors, nurses and radiographers are trained to deal with these side effects.

Occasionally the injection may leak out from the vein to the tissues under the skin - this is known as extravasation. If this has happened, you will 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.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, but they will not be able to accompany you into the MRI room.

When will I get the results?

We cannot give you the results of the scan on the day you attend. The scan will be reviewed by a radiologist and a written report sent to the consultant or GP who referred you. This can take around four weeks.

Your referrer will then arrange a follow up appointment to discuss the results of your scan.

Will there be students present?

Student radiographers are regularly rotated into the MRI department and therefore may be present during your examination. If you would prefer them not to attend please let the supervising radiographer know at the time.

What if I have a query about my scan?

If you have any queries about your scan, including any special needs you may have, or if you wish to alter the appointment please contact the MRI department.

If you need a translator please contact the MRI department as soon as you receive your appointment letter to ensure that one can be organised before you come for the scan.

The department can be reached Monday to Friday between 9am and 8pm on: 01902 695927

Please note that in view of patient confidentiality, we are unable to discuss any details concerning this appointment with anyone other than you.

Where can I get further information?

Websites:

For general information about radiology departments, visit The Royal College of Radiologists' website:

www.rcr.ac.uk

Transport Information

Public transport

New Cross Hospital is within easy reach from Wolverhampton City Centre.

The Hospital site is serviced by a regular bus timetable, details of the buses coming to the hospital are on our website

www.royalwolverhamptonhospitals.nhs.uk or telephone Centro Hotline 0121 200 2700.

Wolverhampton has a regular main line train service with trains arriving from Birmingham approximately every 30 minutes. Please consult timetables for availability of other services.

Car parking

Please leave plenty of time to find a parking space as parking is limited. There are 4 MRI scanners at New Cross Hospital. Please check your appointment letter to see where your appointment is.

The nearest car park for levels 1 and 2 scanners in the Radiology department (location A2) and the mobile scanner, is P6, situated on the south side of the hospital.

The nearest car park for the Emergency Department MRI scanner in UECC(Emergency & Urgent Care Centre) is P3, which is on the east side of the hospital.

MRI Department

MRI Levels 1 and 2 are situated in the Radiology Department, which is situated close to Greggs bakery in the atrium area in Zone A2.

The mobile MRI scanner is on car park P6. If your appointment is on the mobile scanner, you should report directly to the mobile no more than 5 minutes before your appointment time. There are seats in the corridor of the A2 building, level 0, where you can wait if you arrive early.

The Emergency Department MRI Scanner is located in the UECC (Emergency & Urgent Care Centre) Zone C, C50. Please report to UECC reception where you will be directed to the correct waiting room.

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。