

# SMALL BOWEL MRI

## (MR ENTEROGRAPHY)

Your doctor has asked you to have this examination to look at your small bowel in more detail using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), a way of taking pictures inside the body without using x-rays. More detail on MRI is outlined in the leaflet enclosed.



### Preparing for your scan

To prepare your small bowel for the study, you **must not eat anything for at least 6 hours prior to your scan**, and may only drink clear fluids (eg squash or black tea/coffee).

- Bring your completed safety questionnaire with you.
- If you suffer from diabetes, bring any medication you take and something to eat with you for after the scan. Please also notify the department so an early appointment can be made for you.
- If you have an ileostomy, bring an additional bag with you to your appointment.
- **Please avoid bringing any unnecessary valuables, and where possible wear clothing with no metal fastenings attached, although we will provide a gown to wear if necessary.**

### During the scan:

- You will either lie on your front or back with a piece of equipment placed over your stomach and pelvis which helps take the pictures.
- You will then lie feet first in the MRI scanner for approximately 45 minutes and the table will move in and out during the examination.
- You will be given ear protection to help block out the loud noises of the scanner.
- There will be breathing instructions during all of the scans and you will need to hold your breath for about 15-20 seconds. (you may wish to practice this at home)
- If you need the toilet during the examination please use the call bell to get the attention of a member of staff.

### After your scan

The images need to be examined in detail by a doctor who is specialised in reading these images, so we are unable to give you any results straight away. You will need to make a follow-up appointment with the clinician who referred you for this examination.

This examination itself takes **about 45 minutes**, however you should **expect to be in the department for up to 2 hours**. Some of this time does involve drinking around 1 litre of a water based solution.



You will be asked to drink a water based solution steadily over 45-60mins prior to your scan. This helps enlarge the small bowel and provide better pictures.



However, this can cause symptoms of nausea, bloating and diarrhoea which may last for up to 24 hours. You may wish to take this into account when planning what to do in the couple of hours immediately after your scan. It is also important to drink plenty of water following your scan.

You may be required to have a couple of injections during the examination which will be explained on the day.



**Buscopan** is given to reduce involuntary bowel movement which can cause blurring on images. There is a small chance that your vision may become blurred for a few minutes after the injection, this is normal and your eyesight will return to normal by the end of the examination, although as a precaution we recommend not to drive home afterwards.

**A special dye** may also be given which helps further highlight and demonstrate structures of the small bowel and abdomen.

As with any injection there is a risk of reaction, although this is very low. The specialist who referred you for this examination is aware of the risk and feels that it is beneficial for you to have the injection.

If you have had a previous reaction to an injection, severe allergies/asthma, glaucoma or kidney problems please inform our staff.