

# WHAT IS AN MRI SCAN?



MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging which is a way of taking pictures inside the body without using x-rays.

An MRI scanner is a large, hollow tube open at both ends. A strong magnetic field and radio waves are used to create images of organs and other structures inside you.

For more detailed information visit:

[www.inhealthgroup.com/services/mri-scan](http://www.inhealthgroup.com/services/mri-scan)

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/MRI-scan/Pages/introduction.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/MRI-scan/Pages/introduction.aspx)

## Preparing for your scan

- Unless specifically instructed, you can eat and drink normally before your scan.
- Where possible, please wear comfortable, loose clothing with minimal metal fastenings (such as zips and press studs/poppers).  
Thin cotton based clothing and minimal layers help encourage cooling during the scan.  
If necessary, you may be asked to change into a gown for your scan.
- We will provide a locker in which you can store your metal items, watches, credit cards etc.  
You may prefer to leave valuable items at home.

## Important information



It is a safe, painless technique with no known risks, provided the safety questionnaire is correctly completed. Please ensure you read the information sent to you in full.

Due to the magnet used by the scanner, people with certain types of medical implants or devices may not be able to be scanned.

Some examples: people fitted with a pacemaker, some types of head surgery, certain metal implants or if there has ever been any injury to the eyes involving metal fragments.



PATIENT APPROVED



Please remove all metal from your body including loose change from your pockets.



Although we aim to keep to appointment times, we cannot always predict how long a scan will take.

We will keep you informed if we anticipate being late and appreciate your understanding of this.

# WHAT TO EXPECT?



We will use pads, cushions and supports to help make you comfortable for the scan. It is important to be as comfortable as possible to help you keep still throughout. When each 'picture' is being taken you need to keep still for a few minutes, otherwise the resulting image may be blurred. The area of the body being scanned needs to be in the centre of the scanner, therefore you may be put into the scanner head first or feet first.



A 'receiving device' like an aerial, may be placed behind or around the part of the body being examined. This detects the tiny radio signals emitted from the body during the scan.



The time taken for the scan will vary depending on what is being scanned but on average might take 20 – 40 minutes.



Sometimes, to improve the quality of the images, it may be necessary to give you an injection of a special dye. If this is required, our staff will explain this to you and answer any questions you may have.

## Your results

Please contact your referrer for your results and further information. Results usually take a few days to be processed but our staff will advise you on the day as to how long you will need to wait. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

The scanner will make loud and unusual noises whilst taking your pictures. Earphones and/or earplugs will be given and music may be available.



You will be given a call bell whilst having your scan. Should you need to stop the scan at any point, simply squeeze this and our staff will attend to you immediately.



There is an intercom inside the scanner so you will be able to talk to the staff at any time between scans.



## After your Scan

- There are no after effects from the scan. You can return to your normal activities as soon as the scan is over.
- Our scanning staff are specialists in obtaining high quality images. However, they are not trained to diagnose from these.
- The images from the scan are studied by a Consultant who will prepare a written report to send to your referrer.
- If we spot anything that needs urgent attention when you are with us or, if the Consultant sees anything when writing your report, then there is a process in place to ensure this is reported to your referrer as soon as possible and the necessary steps taken to get you treatment quickly.
- We are always keen to hear feedback and have patient feedback forms available.
- If you have any further questions please speak to a member of staff who will be happy to help.