

Having an MRI scan

Department of Radiology

Information for Patients

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If you have an appointment letter for an MRI scan, please read your letter carefully to check which hospital you need to come to.

This leaflet tells you about your scan. Please read it carefully as it contains important information and instructions.

Important safety information

You must tell us, by calling the telephone number on your appointment letter if you:

- have a pacemaker or internal defibrillator.
- have ever had any metal fragments in your eyes.
- have any implants or surgical clips in your body or head.
- have ever had an operation on your head, eyes, ears, heart or chest.
- think there is a chance that you might be pregnant.
- have had an operation in the last 6 weeks.
- have a cochlear implant for your hearing.
- are breastfeeding.

If you are already staying in hospital as an inpatient, please ask staff on your ward to phone the MRI scan room to inform us if any of the above applies to you.

If you have been sent a safety questionnaire with your appointment letter, please fill it in and bring it with you.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

What is an MRI scan?

An MRI scanner is a large tube that contains a powerful magnet. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a type of scan which uses a powerful magnet and a computer to produce detailed images of any part of the body.

The MRI scanner does not use X-rays.

How do I get ready for the scan?

If your appointment letter contains preparation instructions it is very important that you follow these instructions carefully.

Please bring any sprays or inhalers that you are taking with you to your appointment.

If you are on medication from your doctor please continue to take it as normal.

A member of staff will explain the procedure fully and ask you to complete a safety questionnaire before starting the scan, if you haven't already done so.

It is helpful to wear clothes which do not have metal zips or clips.

Before the scan you will need to remove all loose metal objects, including:

- watch, activity tracker, mobile phone, money, credit cards, keys, glasses.
- all jewellery (including piercings) - metal piercings can be replaced with plastic piercings before coming for your scan.
- hair clips, wigs or hair pieces.
- eye make-up, fake eyelashes.
- sports clothing that contains silver fibres.
- stick-on drug patches - see instructions below
- glucose monitoring device - see instructions below

If you are claustrophobic please tell us when you arrive. Most people who are anxious about the scan are able to manage it with support from our staff.

If you have a drug patch on your skin:

If you have a stick-on drug patch this will need to be removed before having your MRI scan. This is because the patch may warm up or get hot during the scan. This can change the amount of drug given to you.

Once a drug patch is removed it will not reattach to the skin. If you need to have your drug patch all the time, please bring a new patch with you so you can put it on after the scan is completed.

If your drug patch is applied by a nurse at home, please tell the nurse that you will need a new patch after your MRI appointment. They can then arrange to visit you at home to apply a new one.

If you have a glucose monitor and/ or an insulin pump on your skin:

If you use a glucose sensor (flash monitor or continuous glucose monitor (CGM)), which attaches to the surface of your skin, this will need to be removed for your MRI scan. Please bring a replacement to your appointment so you can apply it after your scan. Alternatively, you can contact us to change your appointment so it ties in with when you are due to replace your sensor.

If you have an insulin pump with tubing, you will need to remove the pump before the scan can be performed. The pump can be reattached as soon as the procedure is over.

If you have a patch pump, such as an Omnipod, you will need to remove the Pod and keep your Personal Diabetes Manager (PDM) outside of the room with your belongings. Please bring a new Pod to apply after your scan.

What happens during the MRI scan?

On arrival at the Radiology Department you may be asked to change into a hospital gown.

You will be taken to the MRI scanner where the scan will be explained to you, and you can ask any questions you may have.

You will then be asked to lie down on the scanner table which is moved into the magnet. Depending on the part of your body being scanned, you will move into the scanner either head first or feet first.

During the scan you will hear a rhythmic tapping sound which may become quite loud. This is normal. You will be given headphones or earplugs to protect your ears from the noise.

The radiographer operating the scanner can see you throughout the scan. You will be given a call button to alert the staff if you need to speak to them during the scan.

For some scans you may need to hold your breath several times during the examination. The radiographer will tell you when to do this. If you have any difficulties holding your breath for short periods (about 20 seconds) please tell staff on arrival.

You may need to have an injection of a colourless liquid that shows up on images (contrast liquid) into a vein in your arm, if images with greater detail are needed. The doctor (supervising radiologist) will decide this on the day and you will be fully informed.

How long will it take?

An MRI scan usually takes between 30 to 60 minutes. The time will vary for each patient.

What happens after the scan?

You should have no after effects from an MRI scan.

You can eat and drink normally after the scan and you can return to normal activity/ work.

How do I get the results?

The results will not be given to you immediately. The images will be looked at by a radiologist and the results will be sent to the consultant or GP who referred you for this scan. If you are an inpatient when you come for a scan, the results will be given to the doctor looking after you on your ward.

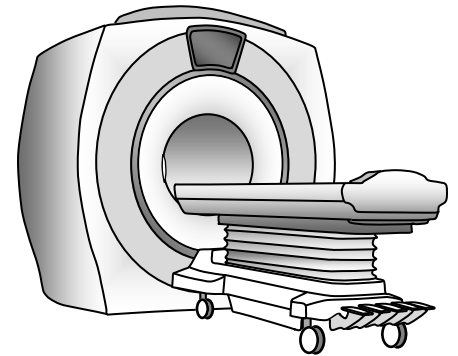
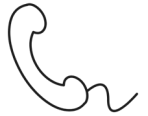
We will tell you how you can get your results after you have had your scan.

Are there any risks?

- The use of magnetic fields in an MRI scan is not thought to be harmful.
- **Side effects or reaction to contrast liquid** - there is small risk of side effects from the contrast liquid. Symptoms are usually mild and may include itchy skin, pain at the injection site and occasionally feeling sick (nausea) or being sick (vomiting). Headache and chest pain are rare. If you get any of these symptoms at the hospital please tell the doctor, nurse or staff looking after you. If you develop symptoms at home you should contact your GP or call the NHS helpline on 111.

What if I need to talk to someone?

If you have any questions or concerns, or cannot make your appointment, please call the Radiology Department on **0116 258 8765 (option 2)** - Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, excluding bank holidays.



اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk