

Having an MRI scan of your prostate

Department of Radiology

Information for Patients

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Introduction

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 MRI scan. Please read it carefully as it contains important information and instructions.

What is an MRI scan?

An MRI scanner is a large tube that contains a powerful magnet. An MRI scan is a test 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.

Important safety information

You must tell us, by calling the telephone number on your appointment letter if you have any of the following (if you are an inpatient please ask staff on your ward to phone the MRI scan room):

- If you have a pacemaker or internal defibrillator.
- If you have ever had any metal fragments in your eyes.
- If you have any implants or surgical clips in your body or head.
- If you have ever had an operation on your head, eyes, ears, heart or chest.
- If you have had an operation in the last 6 weeks.
- If you have a cochlear implant for your hearing.

**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

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

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 the drug being 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 scan 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.

How to get ready for your scan

An MRI scan of the prostate is a very detailed examination of a relatively small part of the body.

You can help to get the best images possible by:

- avoiding sex or sexual activity for 2 days before your scan.
- trying to pee to empty your bladder about 1 hour before your scan.

You can eat and drink normally before and after your scan.

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

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

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

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

If you have a fear of confined spaces (claustrophobia) please tell us when you arrive. Most people who are anxious about the scan are able to manage it with support from our staff.

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 and grips, wigs, hair pieces, weaves or extensions.
- eye make-up, fake eyelashes.
- sports clothing that contains silver fibres.
- stick-on drug patches - see instructions on previous page.
- glucose monitoring device - see instructions on previous page.

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. A radiographer or an assistant practitioner (AP) will talk to you about the scan and check your questionnaire. You can ask them any questions you may have about the scan.

For a few patients having an MRI scan of the prostate, a small wire with a balloon cover (internal coil) is put into their bottom. We do not use this routinely but will tell you if this is planned.

You will be asked to lie down on the scanner table which is moved into the magnet.

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

You may be given a small injection of a colourless liquid (called a contrast liquid) that shows up on the scan. The injection goes into a vein in your arm. This is used to help see the blood flow in your prostate.

You may also be given an injection of a medicine called Buscopan, which relaxes the muscles of the bowel for a short time to improve the images. It may make your eyesight blurred but this should pass after about 30 minutes.

How long will it take?

An MRI scan of the prostate usually takes about 40 minutes.

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.

Do not drive if your eyesight has become blurred.

How do I get the results?

The results will not be given to you immediately. The images from your scan 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 the scan, the results will be given to the doctors looking after you on your ward.

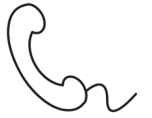
An explanation of how to get your results will be given to you after your scan.

Are there any risks?

- The use of magnetic fields from MRI scans is not thought to be harmful.
- **Blurred vision** - if you were given an injection of Buscopan to relax the bowel muscles, the muscles of your eyes may have relaxed as well. This may cause your eyesight to become blurred. If you are affected do not drive until your vision has returned to normal. It usually returns to normal within 30 minutes.
- **Pain in your eyes** - if you get any pain in your eyes in the next 24 hours please go to Eye Casualty immediately and show them this leaflet, or the aftercare sheet you may have been given after your scan. Call the NHS helpline on 111 if you are not sure where to go.
- **Side effects from contrast liquid** - there is a very small risk of side effects from an injection of contrast liquid, but this is extremely rare. These are usually mild and may include itchy skin, pain at the injection site and occasionally nausea and vomiting. Headache and chest pain are rare. If you experience any side effects please inform staff immediately.

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

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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