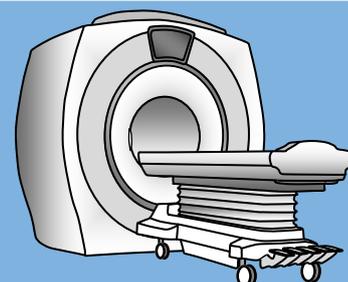


Having an MRI scan



Radiology Department

Information for Patients

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If you have an appointment letter for your scan, please read it carefully. See which hospital to come to. Check if you need to go to the radiology department or a mobile scanner.

Please read all of this leaflet. It tells you about your scan. It has important information.

If we sent you a safety questionnaire, please fill it in and bring it with you.

What is an MRI scan?

An MRI scanner is a large tube with a strong magnet. An MRI scan uses the magnet and a computer to make detailed pictures of any part of the body. An MRI scan does not use X-rays.

Important information

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

- you have a pacemaker or internal defibrillator.
- you have ever had any metal fragments in your eyes.
- you have any implants or surgical clips in your body or head.
- you have ever had an operation on your head, eyes, ears, heart or chest.
- you have ever had a GI pill video capsule (capsule endoscopy) that did not pass through.
- there is any chance that you are pregnant.
- you have had an operation in the last 6 weeks.
- you have a cochlear implant.
- you 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 tell us if any of the above applies to you.

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

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

How do I get ready for the scan?

Check your appointment letter. If it has instructions on how to get ready for the scan (preparation instructions) it is very important that you follow these carefully.

Please bring any sprays or inhalers you use.

Medicine prescribed by your doctor should be taken as usual.

Please do not bring children with you. Young children cannot be left alone when you are in the MRI scanner. Your scan may be cancelled if you come with young children.

Before you go into the MRI scanner we will talk to you about your scan. We will ask you to fill out a safety questionnaire if you have not already done this.

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 makeup, fake eyelashes
- sports clothing that has silver fibres in
- stick-on drug patches. See instructions below.
- glucose monitors that are not safe to use in MRI scanner. See instructions below.

If you have a fear of small 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.

If you have a drug patch on your skin:

If you have a stick-on drug patch for pain medicine, hormones, nicotine or other medicine, you will need to take it off before your MRI scan. This is because the patch may warm up or get hot during the scan. This can change how much of the medicine your body gets.

Once a drug patch is taken off, you cannot stick it back on. If you need your drug patch all the time, please bring a new patch with you. You can put it on after your scan.

If a nurse puts your drug patch on you at home please tell them that you will need a new drug patch after your MRI appointment. They can then plan to visit you at home to put a new one on.

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

If you use a glucose sensor such as a flash monitor or continuous glucose monitor (CGM) on your skin, you may need to take it off for your MRI scan. It depends what type it is. Please bring a replacement with you. You can put it on after your scan. Or, you can call 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 your scan. You can reattach the pump after your scan.

If you have a patch pump, such as an Omnipod, you will need to take the pod off for the scan. The Personal Diabetes Manager (PDM) must be kept outside of the room. You can bring a new pod to put on after the scan.

Who will be doing my scan?

- Someone trained to do MRI scans will do your scan. This could be a radiographer or an assistant practitioner (an AP).
- A radiology assistant may be there to help you get ready.

What happens during the MRI scan?

- Your scan will be done on a scanner in the radiology department or on a mobile scanner.
- When you get to the waiting area or mobile scanner we may ask you to change into a hospital gown. We will check your safety questionnaire. This is to make sure it is safe to do your scan.
- We will talk to you about your scan. You can ask any questions you may have.
- You will lie down on the scanner table. We move the table into the MRI scanner.
- You will move into the scanner either head first or feet first. It depends on the part of your body being scanned.
- During your scan you will hear rhythmic tapping sounds. This may become quite loud. This is normal. We will give you headphones or earplugs to protect your ears from the noise.
- We can see you during your scan to check you are OK. We will give you a call button to alert us if you need to speak to us during your scan.
- For some scans we may ask you to hold your breath a few times during the scan. We will tell you when to do this. If you have any problems holding your breath for short periods (about 20 seconds) please tell us when you arrive.
- We may need to give you an injection of a colourless liquid (contrast) that shows up on the scan. A doctor who is specially trained in X-ray tests and MRI scans (radiologist) will decide this on the day. This happens if we need scan pictures with greater detail. We will tell you if it is needed. We will put a small flexible needle into a vein in your arm. During your scan, we will inject the contrast when it is needed.

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 as usual. You can return to your usual activity or work.



How do I get the results?

- You will not get the results straight away.
- A radiologist will look at your scan pictures.
- We will tell you how you can get your results after you have had your scan.
- We will send your results to the consultant or GP who referred you for this scan. If you are an inpatient when you come for the scan, your results will go to the doctor looking after you on your ward.
- Your scan report will go on the NHS App after an inbuilt delay. Your GP or hospital doctor may have access to your report sooner than you. These reports are medically technical reports to aid diagnosis and treatment options. They are written for the referrer using medical words. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to your referring clinician.

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.** There is small risk of side effects from the contrast. Symptoms are usually mild and may include itchy skin, pain at the injection site. You could feel sick (nausea) or be sick (vomiting). Headache and chest pain are rare. If you get any of these symptoms at the hospital, tell the doctor, nurse or other staff looking after you. If you start to get 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 the appointment:

Please call the Radiology department on **0116 258 8765** and select **option 2**.

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, but not on 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 بلغةٍ 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

Previous reference:

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