

# Having an MRI scan of your baby while you are pregnant

Department of Radiology

Information for Patients

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## Introduction

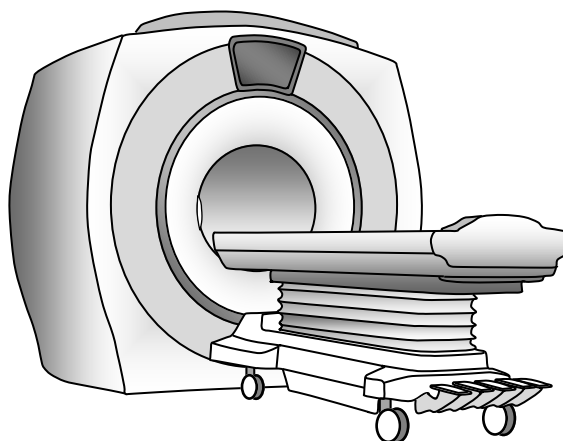
If you are an outpatient please read your appointment letter carefully to check which hospital your appointment is at. This leaflet tells you about your examination. Please read it carefully as it has instructions and important information.

You will have had an ultrasound scan of your unborn baby. Your doctor has recommended that you have an MRI scan of your unborn baby (foetal MRI scan). This is so that we can get more information that may help with making decisions about you and your baby's care.

## What is an MRI scan?

MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) is a type of scan which uses a powerful magnet and a computer to produce detailed images of the inside of the body.

The MRI scanner does not use X-rays.



## Can pregnant women have MRI scans?

Yes. MRI has been available for over 30 years and there is no evidence of any harm to yourself or your baby.

This scan is not usually done in the first 3 months of pregnancy unless it is needed.

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://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](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## Important information

Before your MRI scan we need to check if anything about you could be affected by the scan.

**You must tell us if you have any of the following**, by calling the telephone number on your appointment letter. If you are staying in hospital as 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 there is any chance that you are pregnant.
- If you have had an operation in the last 6 weeks.
- If you have a cochlear implant.
- If you are breastfeeding

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 for pain medicine, hormones, nicotine or other medicine, 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 your drug-patch all the time, please bring a new patch with you so you can put it on after the MRI scan is completed.

If your drug patch is applied by a nurse at home please tell the nurse that you will need a new drug 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 the scan.

## How do I get ready for my scan?

**Do not drink anything with caffeine in it (tea, coffee or fizzy drinks) for 4 hours before your appointment.**

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

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

**Medication from your doctor** should be taken as usual.

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

A member of staff will talk to you about the MRI scan. They will ask you to complete a safety questionnaire before starting the scan if you have not already done so.

Before the scan you will need to take off 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 makeup, fake eyelashes
- sports clothing that contains silver fibres
- stick-on drug patches or diabetic monitoring device - see more information above

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

## What happens during the MRI scan?

When you get to the Radiology Department you may be asked to change into a hospital gown.

- You will be taken to the MRI scanner.
- A radiographer or assistant practitioner (an AP) who is trained in doing MRI scans will talk to you about the scan and check your questionnaire. You may ask them any questions about the scan.
- You will be asked to lie flat on your back on the scanner bed which is moved into the scanner. If this is uncomfortable you can lie on your left side.
- 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 this noise.
- The radiographer or AP 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. You will be told when to do this. If you have any difficulties holding your breath for short periods (about 20 seconds) please let staff know when you arrive.

## How long will it take?

The scan takes about 30 to 45 minutes (if you are expecting twins, the scan will take longer). The time will vary for each person depending on the number of images needed.

## What happens after my scan?

You should have no side effects from this scan. You can eat and drink as usual after the scan and carry on with your normal daily activities.

## How do I get my results?

The results will not be given to you straight away. The pictures from your MRI scan will be looked at by a doctor who specialises in X-rays and MRI scans (a radiologist). Your results will be sent to the consultant or GP who wanted you to have this scan.

You will not be able to see the pictures from your MRI scan. We will tell you how to get your results after your examination.

## Are there any risks from having an MRI scan?

The magnetic field generated by an MRI scan is not thought to be harmful.

MRI has been available for over 30 years and there is no evidence of any harm to yourself or your baby.

## Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns:



Please call the Radiology Department on **0116 258 6334**. Monday to Friday 9am to 2.30pm, 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 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 ਵਿੱਚ 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](mailto:equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)