

# Your child's MRI scan of their kidneys and bladder (urogram)

## Department of Radiology

### Information for Patients

Last reviewed: October 2023

Next review: October 2026

Leaflet number: 89 Version: 4

## Introduction

This leaflet contains important information about having an MRI scan of the kidneys and bladder. It has been designed for you and your child to read together. It is important that your child knows what to expect when they come for the test so that it can be completed quickly and easily.



## Important information for parents and carers

### Before the appointment:

- **If you need an interpreter, or if you have any special requirements**, please contact the Radiology Department for more information.
- **Medication should be taken as usual** unless you have been given different instructions by the doctor.
- Other children will not be allowed in the MRI room whilst this test is being done. If you have any other children please make other child care arrangements for the appointment and do not bring them into hospital if at all possible.
- **Getting to the hospital:** Transport has not been arranged for this appointment. If transport is needed please call either your GP or the Radiology Department.

**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)

## 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 pictures of any part of the body. The MRI scanner does not use X-rays.



To see an example of a type of MRI scan please scan the QR code to watch this video on YouTube. It shows a cartoon of a child having an MRI scan of their head.

You can also type <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMpfW8KtoE8> into your internet address bar (The letter before the M in this web address is a capital letter i).

## Important safety information

**You must tell us, by calling the telephone number on your appointment letter, if your child:** (A parent or carer can also go into the scan room as long as they too do not have any of the following).

- has a pacemaker or internal defibrillator.
- has ever had any metal fragments in their eyes.
- has any implants or surgical clips in their body or head.
- has ever had an operation on their head, eyes, ears, heart or chest.
- is or could be pregnant.
- has had an operation in the last 6 weeks.
- has a cochlear implant.

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

## How should your child get ready for the MRI scan?

Please go through this leaflet with your child if you want to.

**Eating and drinking instructions** - your child may eat and drink as usual before the scan.

**Medication** - if they are on medication from your doctor please continue to take it as normal.

**What to bring** - please bring any sprays or inhalers that your child is taking with you to the appointment. You can bring some food and drink for your child as they may get hungry when they are at the hospital. You may be in the department for up to 3 hours.

**What to wear** - it is helpful to wear clothes which do not have metal zips or clips. Please remove any metal piercings or replace them with plastic piercings before coming for the scan.

If your child has 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 the radiographer.

## **If your child has a glucose monitor and/or an insulin pump on their skin:**

**If your child uses a glucose sensor** (flash monitor or continuous glucose monitor (CGM)), which attaches to the surface of their skin, this will need to be removed for their MRI scan. Please bring a replacement to their appointment to put on after the scan. Or, you can contact us to change your child's appointment so it ties in with when they are due to replace their sensor.

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

## **What happens before the MRI scan?**

A member of staff will go through the safety questionnaire with you and your child. The scan will be explained and you can ask any questions.

Your child will be given 500ml (half a litre) of pineapple juice plus 2 cups of water to drink over 30 minutes. We would like them to drink the pineapple juice first. Then the water. This helps us to see different organs clearly on the scan. Your child must then go to the toilet to pee to empty their bladder.

Your child may be asked to change into a hospital gown if they are wearing clothes with metal clips or zips. They will also need to remove all loose metal objects, including their watch, money, keys, mobile phone, all jewellery (including piercings) and hair clips. Metal piercings can be replaced with plastic piercings before coming for the scan.

Your child will then go for their scan. You can go in the scan room with them while they have their scan if you have also completed the safety checks with a member of the MRI staff.

## **What happens during the MRI scan?**

In the scan room, your child will lie down on the scanner table which is moved into the magnet.

During the scanning, your child will not feel anything but they will hear a rhythmic tapping sound which can get quite loud. This is normal. You will both be given headphones or earplugs to protect your ears from the noise.

Someone with special training to do MRI scans (a radiographer or assistant practitioner) will be able to see your child when they are having the scan. They will be in the room next door. Your child will be given a call button to alert the staff if they need to speak to them during the scan.

Your child will need to hold their breath several times during the examination. The MRI staff doing the scan will tell your child when to do this.

The X-ray doctor (radiologist) will look at the scan pictures. Your child may need to have an injection of a colourless liquid that shows up on the scan (contrast liquid) into a vein in their arm. This is to show more information on the scan. If this is needed it will be explained to you and your child.

## How long will it take?

The drink will take 30 minutes. The MRI scan usually takes between 30 and 60 minutes. The time will vary for each patient. The scan may take an extra hour if your child has the contrast injection. You may be in the department for up to 3 hours.

## What happens after the scan?

Your child should have no after effects from this examination.

## How do I get the results?

The results will not be given to you straight away. A radiologist will look at the scan pictures and send a report to the consultant or GP who referred your child for this scan. We will tell you how to get your child's results after the scan. If your child is staying in hospital as an inpatient when they come for the scan, the results will be given to the doctors looking after them on the ward.

## Risks and benefits

The use of magnetic fields from MRI scans is not thought to be harmful.

**Side effects or reaction to contrast liquid (if given)** - There is very small risk of side effects from the injection. Symptoms are usually mild and may include itchy skin, pain at the injection site and sometimes feeling sick or being sick (vomiting). Headache and chest pain are rare. If your child gets any of these symptoms at the hospital, tell the MRI staff looking after you. If they 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 (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](mailto:equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)