

# Having an MRI scan of your prostate

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 safety information

You must tell us, by phoning the 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.
- have ever had a GI pill video capsule (capsule endoscopy) that did not pass through.
- 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.

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](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.uhleicester.nhs.uk](http://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](mailto:uhl-tr.informationforpatientsmailbox@nhs.net)

## How do I get ready for my scan?

An MRI scan of the prostate gives very detailed pictures of a small part of the body. **You can help to get the best images possible by:**

- **for 2 days before your scan**, avoid sex or sexual activity .
- **about 1 hour before your scan**, try to pee to empty your bladder
- you can eat and drink as usual before and after your scan.
- **medicine prescribed by your doctor should be taken as usual.**
- **please bring any sprays or inhalers you use.**
- **please bring your MRI safety questionnaire.**
- 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.
- it is helpful to wear clothes which do not have metal zips or clips.

**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. You can replace metal piercings 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 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 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 either 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 talk to you about your scan. We will check your safety questionnaire. This is to make sure it is safe to do your scan. You may ask us any questions about the scan.
- We will take you into the MRI scan room.
- We may need to put a small wire with a balloon cover (internal coil) into your bottom for your scan. Most patients do not need this. We will tell you if this is planned.
- You will lie down on the scanner table. We move the table into the MRI scanner.
- During the 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.
- We may give you a small injection of a colourless liquid (contrast) 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.
- We may give you an injection of a medicine called Buscopan. This 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?

The scan usually takes about 45 minutes. Your time in the department may be longer.

## What happens after the scan?

**Do not drive if your eyesight has become blurred.**

You should not have any other 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. After your scan we will tell you who the results will go to and how to get your results.
- A doctor who specialises in MRI scans will look at your scan pictures. The results will be sent to the GP or hospital doctor who wanted you to have this test. If you are an inpatient the results will be given to the doctors looking after you on the ward.
- Your scan report will be added to the NHS App. It may not show straight away. Your GP or hospital doctor may see the report before you do. The report uses medical words and is written for healthcare staff to understand. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to the clinician who referred you.

## Are there any risks?

- The use of magnetic fields from MRI scans is not thought to be harmful.
- **Problems seeing.** If you had the Buscopan injection to relax the bowel muscles, the muscles of your eyes may have relaxed as well. This may cause blurry eyesight for about 30 minutes. If this happens do not drive until your eyesight is back to normal.
- **Eye pain.** If you get any pain in your eyes in the next 24 hours please go straight to eye casualty. Show them this leaflet or the after-care sheet you may have been given after the scan. Call NHS 111 if you are not sure where to go.
- **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

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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 [uhl-tr.equalitymailbox@nhs.net](mailto:uhl-tr.equalitymailbox@nhs.net)