



The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals  
NHS Trust

# Important information before having an MRI examination

**Your consultant has referred you for an MRI.  
To arrange this please telephone the diagnostic appointment centre on: 0844 902 004 or 01924 512266, leaving 2 working days to arrange your appointment.  
The centre is open between 08.30am and 6pm Monday to Friday. The busiest times are 8am – 11am.**

## **What is MRI?**

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a diagnostic scanning technique that uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves. During the scan, the main magnet field strength is altered using electromagnetic coils. This causes a wide range of sounds during the scanning procedure including banging, buzzing and rumbling noises. The area of your body the doctor would like imaging will need to be in the middle of the MRI scanner. You may require a coil (a hard plastic cover) with image enhancing elements around the part of your body being scanned.

## **Is it safe?**

Unlike traditional x-rays and CT scans, MRI does not require the use of ionising radiation, MRI may **NOT** be performed on people with certain metal implants in their bodies such as pacemakers, cochlear implants, some surgical clips and some artificial heart valves.

**If you think you have one of these implants then please contact the department on 01924 541570 or 01924 541109 to notify us.**

The banging noise the scanner makes is loud and the use of earplugs or headphones which are provided must be worn to protect your ears.

## **Will I need an injection?**

Some patients may need an injection of contrast medium to enhance the images. In most patients the injection is given in the vein in your elbow (the same place as a blood test). Please note that this is not the same kind of contrast medium which you may have had during an

x-ray or CT procedure. In some cases you might experience a cold feeling in your arm but this is normal. Like all medicines the contrast medium can cause side effects but these are rare.

## **How long will it take?**

Different MRI examinations take various lengths of time but generally the scan takes 20 -30 minutes. The length of the scan will vary depending on the area of the body being covered and the diagnosis being sought. The important thing to remember is that just because a scan takes longer, does not necessarily mean there is something wrong.

## **Does it hurt?**

**No:** an MRI scan is a painless procedure, but you must be able to keep still and lie quite flat during the scan.

If you require extra support and especially for children under 16 years old, then parent/guardian or carer may be able to stay with them for support in the scan room during the examination.

## **Preparing for your MRI appointment**

Please try to wear clothing which has no zips or fasteners, otherwise you may need to change into a clean gown. Any other metallic objects will need to be removed and you may want to leave valuables at home. It is important that you do not wear any makeup or hair products, as many of these products have tiny metal particles that could interfere with the scan and reduce the quality of the images. They might cause the area to heat up and on the rare occasion, burn your skin.

An MRI safety questionnaire will follow in the post with your appointment.

## **Results**

The radiologist will report your scan and the report will be sent to the referring GP/doctor/consultant and the results will be given to you at your follow up appointment.

## Contact details

**Diagnostic appointment centre:**

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We are committed to providing high quality care. If you have a suggestion, comment, complaint or appreciation about the care you have received, or if you need this leaflet in another format please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on: **01924 542972** or email: **pals@midyorks.nhs.uk**

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