

What if I'm pregnant?

There are currently no known dangers from MRI, although we do not carry out scanning in the first three months of pregnancy unless essential.

For your comfort

We can make arrangements for your individual needs and comfort, for example we can sometimes allow family members into the MRI area with you, or we may be able to find more comfortable positions for you to be in while you are being scanned.



Lastly - relax

Don't worry about your scan. We are here to help. If you have any fears or doubts, don't hesitate to talk to one of our staff. If you would like to visit the department before your scan to have a look around, please contact us.

Results

Your referrer should receive your scan images and report within a week. The referrer is the person who has sent you for your MRI (for example, your GP or Physiotherapist.) You should make an appointment with your referrer to discuss the results. The radiographer will not be able to give you your results on the day of your scan.

V5 January 2011

About us

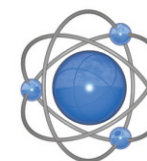
Our MRI Imaging Service has been scanning patients since 1993. We have achieved the ISO9001: 2008 quality standard for the quality of service that we provide to our patients. We are also the first imaging service in the UK to have met the Imaging Services Accreditation Scheme (ISAS) quality standards. This shows that we have the ability to provide a safe service that is focused around patients. We use state-of-the-art equipment including:

- * the UK's first high field open MRI scanner,
- * the world's first 3.0 Tesla mobile scanner,
- * one of the world's first open PET/CT (positron emission tomography and computed tomography) scanners,
- * ultrasound, and
- * x-ray



We are the first service to be granted this internationally recognised accreditation.

The Imaging Services Accreditation Scheme (ISAS) is based on independent assessment by the **United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)**.



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Cheltenham Imaging Centre MRI Department Information for patients

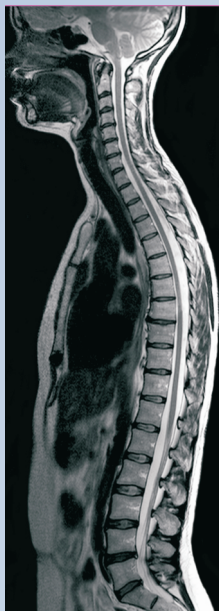


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What is an MRI scan?



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) produces high resolution pictures of any part of the body in any direction. The scanner uses a high-strength magnet, radio waves and computers to generate images.

MRI does not use x-rays, so it can be used repeatedly. MRI is considered to be a very safe way of producing images that can diagnose medical conditions.

Is there any preparation?

When you arrive, a member of staff will complete a safety checklist with you to make sure that you can be scanned, and

will answer any questions that you may have. There is usually no need for any special preparation before your scan. On the day of your scan you will probably be able to eat and drink as normal and take any medicine you have been prescribed - if not, we will tell you when you book your appointment.

You will need to remove all metal objects such as zips, jewellery, hair grips and so on before entering the scan room because of the powerful magnet that is used to scan. Credit cards are also affected by the magnet - you can leave these and other valuables in the lockers provided. Please do not wear mascara if you are having a scan of your head or eyes as it contains fine metallic particles which affect the pictures.

What should I wear?

We will ask you to change into a gown if you are wearing clothes that contain metal. You may prefer to arrive for your scan in clothes which do not contain metal, for example you could wear a zipless tracksuit or an elasticated skirt. If you do this you will not have to change for your scan.

What should I expect?

The Radiographer will position you on a comfortable couch, which slides into the scanner. You will be asked to keep still while we scan you and produce your images. MRI is a



completely harmless procedure, but the scanner is very noisy when it is taking pictures so we will provide you with ear protection. We will be able to play music during your scan so you may like to bring a CD with you to listen to.

There are no after-effects from your scan so you can carry on with all your normal activities (driving, for example) straight away.

How long will it take?

This depends on which part of the body is being scanned. Most scans of one area are completed in 20-30 minutes. Although we try to keep to appointment times, we don't always know beforehand exactly how long a particular scan will take. This means that occasionally an appointment time may be slightly delayed and we would appreciate your understanding if this happens to you.

Is it safe?

There is no potentially harmful radiation used for your MRI scan, so it is considered to be very safe. However, because the scanner uses a strong magnet it is important that you tell us if you have certain implants or if you have had certain operations. **If you have a pacemaker, arterial clips, brain clips, a cochlear implant or some sort of metal fragment in your eyes (see the list on the right) you CANNOT be scanned.** Implants such as knee or hip replacements, dental work and gold/silver rings are perfectly safe.

Important

Because of the strong magnetic field some people are not suitable for scanning by MRI.

Please contact us before coming for your scan if you have any doubts about whether you are suitable for MRI or if you have, or have had, any of the following.

- * **A neurostimulator anywhere in your head or body.**
- * **A pacemaker.**
- * **An artificial heart valve.**
- * **Aneurysm clips (these are metal clips that are inserted during some operations, especially in the blood vessels or the brain).**
- * **Metal fragments in the eye, head or body (if you suspect that a metal fragment may have entered your eye, particularly if you have ever worked with a lathe or metal grinding equipment please contact us for advice immediately).**
- * **Any surgery in the six weeks before your appointment.**
- * **Any surgery which involved placing implants in your head or body.**

Will I need an injection?

Occasionally we will need to give you an injection of contrast (a dye which makes blood vessels and organs show up more clearly) to give better images. This is normally given into the arm or the back of the hand by a qualified member of staff.