

**Patient
Information**

MRI scan for children

What is an MRI scanner?



An MRI scanner uses a big magnet to take pictures of the inside of your body. It is very safe.

The MRI scanner looks like an open ended tunnel with a bed that slides in and out.

Something we call a coil is placed around the area we want to scan and collects messages from your body to make into a picture. We have lots of different sizes and shapes for different areas of the body.

You, and the person with you, will be asked questions by the MRI staff to make sure you are safe to have the scan. You can have someone with you for the whole time of the scan.

You will have to take any metal items off, such as jewellery, glasses and watches and remove any coins and phone from your pockets. These will be locked away safely for you. You can bring a metal free soft toy into the scanner with you to hold.

The scan will not hurt, but can be very noisy!

Reference No.

GHPI1652_04_24

Department

Radiology

Review due

April 2027

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Before the scan

If you would like to see the scanner or hear the noises it makes before your scan, we can arrange this for you. Please telephone the number at the end of this leaflet to arrange a visit.

Will I need an injection?

Sometimes, you will have an injection of dye. This will give more detail on your pictures. The dye does not hurt you but will feel cold as it goes in, it is completely colourless. We will insert a small tube called a cannula into a vein in your arm or hand. The dye will be given through the cannula.

What happens in the scanner?

You will be given a buzzer, like a soft ball, to hold during your scan. Squeeze this if you need us to stop, come in or if you want to ask a question.

When you are ready, you can lie on the bed and we will give you a blanket to make you comfortable.

The scanner makes lots of strange humming, whirring, clicking and clunking noises.

As it is noisy, we will give you earplugs or headphones and we can play music sometimes. If it is a scan of your head, we can play a DVD/CD if you bring one in with you.

The scan takes between 10 minutes and 1 hour. Try and keep really still so that your pictures come out clearly. If the pictures are blurred, we may have to do the scan again.

When the scan is finished, you can go home.

Results

The results will be sent to the doctor looking after you. This can take a few weeks. The doctor will then arrange an appointment to see you.

Patient Information

Contact information

If you have any concerns or questions or you wish to arrange a visit to see and hear the scanner, please contact us on the number below:

MRI Appointments Office

Tel: 0300 422 4488

Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

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Making a choice

Shared Decision Making

If you are asked to make a choice, you may have lots of questions that you want to ask. You may also want to talk over your options with your family or friends. It can help to write a list of the questions you want answered and take it to your appointment.



Ask 3 Questions

To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions if you are asked to make a choice about your healthcare.

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?

These resources have been adapted with kind permission from the MAGIC Programme, supported by the Health Foundation

* Ask 3 Questions is based on Shepherd HL, et al. Three questions that patients can ask to improve the quality of information physicians give about treatment options: A cross-over trial. Patient Education and Counselling, 2011;84: 379-85



<https://aqua.nhs.uk/resources/shared-decision-making-case-studies/>