

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

For any questions relating to the examination or completing the questionnaire contact the department on **01691 404316**

IMPORTANT

Please contact the department immediately if you have any of the following:

1. cardiac pacemaker/defibrillator
2. aneurysm clips
3. cochlear implants
4. history of metal fragments in your eyes
5. spinal implants
6. any possibility you may be pregnant

If you cannot keep this appointment, phone as soon as possible to let us know on **01691 404021**. We can then give the appointment to someone else.

Further information www.nhs.uk/conditions/mri-scan

If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print. Arrangements can also be made on request for it to be explained in your preferred language. Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: rjah.pals.office@nhs.net

Feedback

Tell us what you think of our patient information leaflet. Please send your comments to the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: rjah.pals.office@nhs.net

Date of publication: March 2022
Date of review: March 2024
Author: Imaging Department
© RJAH Trust 2022

Information for Outpatients MRI Department



The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt
Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust,
Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 7AG
Tel: 01691 404000
www.rjah.nhs.uk

Imaging

designed by Medical Illustration

Introduction

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is an imaging technique that produces detailed images of various parts of the body. The MRI scanner uses strong magnetic fields and radio-frequency waves to produce the images.

What is the procedure?

You will be asked to change into a cotton hospital gown, and you may wish to bring a dressing gown to wear over this while you are waiting. You will be escorted into the exam room by a Radiographer who will position you in the scanner and explain the procedure to you.

During the scan you will hear loud knocking noises, these are a normal part of the procedure, and are due to an electric current in the scanner being turned on and off very quickly. MRI scans can take between 20 and 90 minutes and it is important to keep as still as possible during the scan. To help pass the time during your scan we can play you music, so please bring a CD of your choice or you can choose one of the available DAB radio stations.

Depending on the examination you may need an injection of a contrast agent, this makes certain tissues and blood vessels in the body show up more clearly. The Radiographer will explain this and ask you questions to ensure it is safe to have the contrast agent. If an injection is required several scans will be taken before the injection and then repeated straight after, it is important you remain still between these scans.

We cannot foresee emergencies so please be patient if your scan does not take place on time.

How do I prepare for the procedure?

You can continue to eat, drink, and take your usual medications.

You will have been sent a safety questionnaire along with your appointment letter, please fill this in carefully and contact us if you have any concerns.

Please let us know if you have a Cardiac Pacemaker, any metal clips inside your head, cochlear implants, or any metal fragments either in your eyes or in any other part of your body as it may not be safe for you to have an MRI scan in our department. Pregnant women are also not usually scanned, unless it is an emergency.

On your arrival a member of staff will also go through the questionnaire with you to make sure it is safe to go ahead with your scan.

What are the benefits of the procedure?

An MRI scan can be used to examine almost any part of the body. The results of an MRI scan can be used to diagnose conditions, plan future treatment, to monitor conditions and to assess how effective previous treatment has been.

What are the risks of the procedure?

An MRI scan is a safe and painless procedure. You may find it difficult if you have claustrophobia, so please let us know as we can support you with this.

No evidence has been found to suggest any risk to the human body from the magnetic field and radio waves used during the scan. However for patients with certain implants these can pose a hazard and alternative imaging may be suggested.

The Radiographer will ensure you are safe to have the procedure and monitor you during the scan. We can always see you and can communicate with you through an intercom if needed. You will also be provided with a call bell should you need immediate assistance during the procedure.

An injection of contrast agent can cause side effects such as a feeling of sickness, a skin rash, a headache, or dizziness. It is important you tell the Radiographer if you have a history of allergic reactions or any kidney disease.

What happens after the procedure?

Your images will be reported by a Consultant Radiologist, a doctor specialising in the interpretation of medical images. A copy of this report will be sent to your referring clinician and the Radiographer will advise you on how long this may take.