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MRI Information

Dundrum - Northwood - Dublin City
Cork City - Kilkenny - Naas

What is an MRI scan?

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a diagnostic scanning technique based on the principles of magnetic resonance. MRI uses a strong magnetic field and radio frequency waves to produce detailed images of the internal organs and tissues.

Is it safe?

An MRI scan is a painless procedure and there are no known risks or side effects associated with MRI.

For the examination you will be asked to lie on a cushioned table and you will be made as comfortable as possible. You will be given an alarm button in case you need to contact the radiographer during the examination. Throughout the examination you will hear repeated banging, buzzing and rumbling noises which stop and start. These noises are normal. You will not feel anything. The machine does not move. It is open at both ends and it cannot close.

You will be given ear phones and you may choose the radio station you would like to listen to. Alternatively, you may bring your favourite CD. It is important to remain as still as possible.

If you need to bring a companion into the room with you, you may do so if they are MRI compatible as per the conditions outlined in this leaflet. The scan will neither affect you nor your companion and you may go home afterwards.

Will it be painful?

No. An MRI scan is a painless procedure, but you must be able to keep very still and lie quite flat. If you are unable to keep still or lie flat please contact us before your scan.

How long will it take?

For one part of your body to be scanned it generally takes approximately 15 minutes. Therefore, it will take proportionately longer to scan more than one part of your body. The duration of the scan may also vary depending upon the diagnosis being sought. For example, it often takes longer to produce high resolution images when very small anatomical structures are being scanned. The important thing to remember is that there is no connection between the duration of the scan and finding something wrong.

Preparation for the scan

In general there is no preparation necessary for an MRI scan. Unless otherwise instructed, you can eat and drink normally and take any regular medication.

Safety precautions

It is not possible to have an MRI examination if you have –

- Certain aneurysm clips in your head
- Certain metallic heart valves
- A cardiac pacemaker
- Inner ear implants (e.g. cochlear)
- Some neuroelectrical stimulators
- Metal fragments within your eye

If you have any of the above please inform staff as soon as possible.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have ever had metal fragments in your eyes due to a penetrating injury and have not had your eyes checked you will require an X-ray of your eyes to ensure there are no fragments still remaining.

Please consult the centre if you –

- Are or may be pregnant
- Have had recent surgery that has required the insertion of metal whether this be joint replacements or clips. The scan may have to be delayed for a few weeks to allow time for the surgical site to heal.
- If you have any fillings or other dental fixtures, the MRI examination can still be carried out.

Your appointment

In most cases your appointment will be made over the phone so that you can select an appointment time convenient for you. When the appointment is made you will be asked a few questions about your medical history to ensure that it is safe for you to have an MRI scan.

On the day of your appointment, you will need to arrive about 15 minutes beforehand. You will be asked to complete a safety questionnaire and to remove any loose metal objects, credit cards and your watch. You may be asked to change into a gown.

The Radiographer (clinician who operates the equipment) will take you into the MRI room and position you for the scan. During the examination you will be able to listen to the radio via the provided headphones provided.

When do I get my results?

The Radiologies will write a report detailing the findings from the scan and send it to your referring doctor. The report will be sent to your doctor usually within 48 hours.

Any other questions?

If you have any other questions, concerns or doubts, please do not hesitate to ask one of our team or contact us prior to your appointment.



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