



MRI SCAN

NORTH SHORE RADIOLOGY
& NUCLEAR MEDICINE

PH: 8425 3666

Your doctor has recommended a Magnetic Resonance (or MRI scan) as part of the investigations of your health problem. This is a guide to provide you with more information about what to expect of this investigation. If you have any questions about why you are to have this test, please ask your doctor. If you have any questions about the test, feel free to ask the x-ray staff.

What is MRI?

MRI or MR stands for magnetic resonance imaging or magnetic resonance. Magnetic Resonance is a relatively new and advanced imaging technique and does not use x-rays. MR uses radiowaves in the presence of a large magnetic field. These radiowaves are used to produce images of particular parts of your body such as the brain, spine and knee. These pictures assist the radiologist (a doctor specialising in MRI) in diagnosing your health problems.



Relative Contraindications

Some patients have some relative contraindications to MRI. If you have any of the following please discuss your situation with the staff, or contact our booking office on 8425 3666.

- Cardiac Pacemaker or Cardiac Defibrillator (ICD)
- Brain Aneurysm Clip
- Cochlear Implant (Bionic ear)
- Neurostimulator / Bladder Stimulator
- Implants/stents/graft in a blood vessel

Some patients who have previously had metal fragments in their eye or have been employed as metal workers may require an x-ray of their eyes to exclude a small metallic foreign body within the eye which may cause some interference with the scanning

Artificial joints such as knee or hip replacements are generally of no concern, unless they are in the area that is being scanned. Please discuss these with the radiographer at the time of your examination.

Some conditions may require more time or specific management. Please call us before your appointment if you:

- Suffer from claustrophobia
- Suspect you are pregnant
- Your child is to have an MRI and is less than five years old.



How to Prepare

Most MRI examinations do not have special preparation requirements, other than the few described below.

On arrival, we do require you to complete a safety questionnaire. As stated previously some implanted devices may be damaged by the magnetic field and can possibly cause risks to our patients upon entering the MRI suite. You may be requested to remove jewellery, make up and metallic possessions due to artefact and safety concerns within the magnet room.

Please bring with you any images, particularly relevant CT and MRI studies not performed at North Shore Radiology, as these will be of great benefit to your reporting. All imaging completed at North Shore Radiology since November 2006 has been stored on archive for review.

Any regular medications can be taken as needed.

Special Preparation - Pain medication

If you are taking pain medication, please take it prior to your scan. This will assist you with maximum pain relief during your scan and allow you to be still and comfortable.

Special Preparation - Claustrophobia

Some patients benefit from the use of a sedative if they suffer from a fear of enclosed spaces (claustrophobia). Sedation must be arranged prior to the scan. Patients having sedation are required to fast for six hours prior to the scan. Following your sedation and MRI scan you will not be released until the nursing staff are satisfied that the effects of sedation have passed. If you have sedation you must be accompanied by a relative or friend to take you home. Our nursing staff will also advise you not to drive or operate heavy equipment for 24 hours after your sedation. Please contact us for further information. **NB: Prior arrangement must be made if sedation is required.**

Special Preparation - Abdomen

If you are having scans of the abdomen, you will be required to fast (consume no food or drink) for four hours. This assists the radiographers in demonstrating the organs clearly. If you are diabetic or need to take medication, please contact us before your appointment to discuss your preparation with one of our staff.





What to Expect

You will be asked to change into a gown and remove your watch, wallet and jewellery and any metallic objects. These may be left with a relative or friend or in a secure locker provided. After you have entered the MRI room you will be positioned on the padded scanner table. This table will move you so that the part of your body to be investigated is in the middle of the scanner/ magnet. Sometimes a local coil or antenna is placed over the area of interest eg; the shoulder.

The MRI Radiographer controls the examination from a separate room next to the scanner. You will be able to talk to him/her at all times.

We collect a series of images from different directions to provide as much information about your health problem. Each set of images will take several minutes to complete so it is important that you remain still.

During the scan you will hear a banging sound as the magnet collects the information from around you. As this banging sound can be quite loud at times you will be asked to wear earplugs during the study.

Some patients find the MR machine slightly constricting and should you suffer from claustrophobia please mention this to the nursing staff or your doctor prior to

coming to the MR suite as some sedation may be required, special arrangements will be required in advance for this to happen. Some scans require an injection of a special dye (contrast) into a vein in your arm. This is usually performed towards the end of an examination and this dye is different to that used in CT scans and other x-ray examinations. You should feel no after effects and should you have an injection of the special dye this will not affect your conscious level.

The MR scan does not cause pain and as far as we know has no harmful effects. It is important to remember that this test is being done for your benefit in trying to obtain further information concerning your health problem and therefore it is very important to cooperate and remain still so the best images can be obtained.

Afterwards

You should feel no after effects; you can drive a car unless you required sedation. If you required sedation you must have someone else to drive you home.

What about the Results?

Your images are reported by Specialised Radiologists who will make a formal written report for your referring Doctor. You will be able to discuss this result at your next Doctor's appointment. This report may take time to make an accurate assessment.

If you have film images at the time of scanning we often ask you to take them with you and your report will follow to your Doctor electronically. We do not require your films at the time of reporting as they are now stored on a long term archive at our site.

Parking

You can reach us by car, bus train or taxi. We are located within the grounds of the Royal North Shore Hospital in St. Leonards, just off the Pacific Highway or Gore Hill Freeway. Metered street parking is available on Westbourne St. Parking is also available in the multi-storey car parks P1 & P2. Concession, daily and weekly passes are available for purchase at the Parking Office located in the P2 car park. The Parking Office also has information about long-term parking costs and conditions. Valet Parking is available from the main entrance of North Shore Private Hospital via Westbourne Street.

For more information, please visit our website www.northshoreradiology.com.au



North Shore Radiology & Nuclear Medicine

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