



MRI Scan

Your Doctor has recommended an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan.

This is a guide to provide you with more information about what to expect from this investigation.

If you have any questions about why you have been referred for this test, please discuss with your referring Doctor.

If you have any questions about this test, please feel free to ask the NSRNM (North Shore Radiology & Nuclear Medicine) staff who will be able to assist you further.



WHAT IS A MRI Scan?

An MRI scan is an advanced imaging technique which uses radiowaves in the presence of a strong magnet to produce highly detailed images of particular areas of the body. These images assist the Radiologist in diagnosing your health problem.

MRI scans, unlike x-rays and CT scans, do not use radiation.

Are there any RISKS involved with having an MRI scan?

MRI is a very safe procedure for most patients. However, some patients with certain implants such as pacemakers, cardiac defibrillators, cochlear implants, and aneurysm clips may not be able to undergo an MRI. If you have any of the above implants, please contact our booking office on 9170 4500 who will be able to assist you further.

When your appointment is arranged our bookings staff will ask you a series of very important questions relating to any possible implants you may have. Please answer these questions as accurately as you can. This information helps us ensure your safety when you come for your scan.

Most metal implants such as knee and hip replacements, and dental fillings/bridges are safe to go into an MRI scanner.

How do I PREPARE for my MRI scan?

The majority of MRI scans require no preparation. Should special preparation (example fasting for an MRI scan of the abdomen) be required, you will be advised at the time of booking.

On the day of your scan, please bring any previous relevant scans not performed at NSRNM with you so the Radiologist may use these for comparison purposes.

You will generally be asked to change into a gown and provided with a locker for your valuables to be stored.

Special Preparation – Pain Medication

If you are taking pain medication, please do so before your arrival for your scan. This will assist you to remain still during the procedure.

Special Preparation - Claustrophobia

Whilst our MRI scanners at NSRNM are 'wide-bore' some patients may benefit from the use of a sedative if they suffer from claustrophobia. Sedation must be arranged prior to the day of your scan. Please discuss this further with our bookings staff at the time of making your appointment.

What to EXPECT

The MRI Radiographer (the technician responsible for undertaking your scan) will explain the procedure to you before positioning you on the MRI couch for your scan. You will be provided with earplugs and/or headphones. You will also be provided with an emergency buzzer so you may contact the Radiographer at any time during your scan if you require.

Usually, an additional piece of equipment is placed close to the area being scanned. The body part being examined is then placed into the middle of the scanner.

You will hear a combination of tapping and banging noises as the scanner acquires the data to build the images.

The MRI scan is very sensitive to patient movement. For this reason, it is very important to remain as still as possible throughout the examination.

It is sometimes necessary to administer an injection of a special MRI contrast agent called Gadolinium. This will provide additional information to assist the Radiologist with reading your scan.

AFTER the scan

Unless you have had sedation, at the completion of your scan you can carry on the rest of your day as normal. You may drive and eat and drink normally.

The results of your scan will be sent directly to your referring Doctor. Should you require your results to go to another Doctor, please let our reception staff know and they will assist with this. Generally, most referring Doctors can access your images and report online for review and assessment.

A Siemens Healthineers MAGNETOM Vida MRI scanner is shown in a clean, white, clinical setting. The machine is a large, horizontal cylindrical unit with a patient bed extending from the front. The bed is white with a grey base and is mounted on a mobile cart with four wheels. The scanner's body is white with a prominent orange stripe. On the right side of the scanner, the Siemens Healthineers logo is visible, consisting of the word "SIEMENS" in blue and "Healthineers" in orange. Below the logo, there is a small digital display screen showing a user interface. The overall design is modern and professional.

SIEMENS
Healthineers

MAGNETOM Vida

4.0T MR System

Parking information for

North Shore Health Hub & North Shore Private Hospital

North Shore Radiology has four locations, your MRI will be performed at either our **North Shore Private Hospital** or **North Shore Health Hub clinics**.

Our staff will advise you of which clinic when you book.



*Refer map over page.



Metered parking is available on Westbourne Street.

There is paid parking available underneath the North Shore Health Hub to the right of the entrance to the Health Hub on Westbourne Street.

Paid parking also available as marked on the map as P1 & P2 all within walking distance of our clinics.



NORTH SHORE RADIOLOGY & NUCLEAR MEDICINE

North Shore Health Hub
 Ground Floor, 7 Westbourne Street
 St Leonards NSW 2065

North Shore Private Hospital
 Ground Floor, 3 Westbourne Street
 St Leonards NSW 2065

Tel: 02 9170 4500 Fax: 02 9170 4577

