

Patient Information

MRI Enterography (MRE)

What is MRI Enterography?

MRI Enterography (MRE) is a type of MRI examination used to visualise and detect abnormalities of the small bowel. This is the region between the stomach and the large bowel. A series of drinks (Metamucil or lactulose) is administered before the scan, and an injection of an MRI contrast agent, Gadolinium, is used to assist in producing highly detailed images of the small bowel.

Why have I been referred for MRE?

This test may help identify:

- Internal bleeding or blockages of the small bowel
- Areas of irritation or inflammation
- Abscesses

MRI Enterography is often used to assess patients with known or suspected Crohn's disease.

Preparation

You will be asked to fast for 6 hours prior to your scan. Small sips of water to assist with taking regular medication is permitted. Upon booking, you will be asked a series of questions about metallic and electronic implants to help establish your safety to enter the MRI scanner. It is very important to answer these questions accurately.

How long will it take?

The scan itself is approximately 30 minutes, however you will be in the department 1.75 hours prior to your MRI scan to allow the series of drinks to be administered.

What to expect

You will be asked to arrive **1 hour and 45 minutes before** your MRI scan. This allows time for a series of drinks to be administered to maximise the visualisation of the small bowel. The MRI scan itself will take approximately 30 minutes and involve an injection of a smooth muscle relaxant (Buscopan) to minimise small bowel movement, and an injection of MRI contrast (Gadolinium) to show the small bowel more clearly. During the MRI scan, several images will be acquired while you hold your breath. The MRI machine makes several loud tapping noises. You will be provided with headphones and an emergency buzzer to allow you to contact the MRI Radiographer at all times. **Please allow approximately 2.5 hours for the entire MR Enterography test.**

If you have a colostomy/stoma, you may wish to bring a replacement bag with you to your appointment. If you have any concerns about the effect of a volume of fluid on your stoma output, please contact the practice.

After Your Examination

You will be monitored briefly after the scan and your cannula will be removed. The drinks administered as part of the test may have a mild laxative effect in some patients. A formal written report will be prepared for your referring Doctor within 48-72 hours after the test.

Questions?

You will be given the opportunity to ask any questions of the technicians or Radiologist at the time of your procedure, however if you have any queries prior to the appointment, please feel free to contact us by phone or email – 02 9170 4500 or contact@nsrnm.com.au

If you have any questions regarding **why** you have been referred for MRI enterography, these should be directed to your specialist or the doctor referring you for the examination.