

Patient Information

MRI Abdomen

What is an Abdominal MRI?

An abdominal MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) is an imaging technique that uses a powerful magnet, radio waves and a computer to create detailed images of the abdomen. It provides valuable information about the abdominal structures and organs. MRI can assist your doctor in diagnosing or monitoring various conditions throughout the abdomen including, but not limited to:

- Abnormalities in the liver, pancreas and bile ducts.
- Suspected or known abnormalities related to the kidneys
- Investigation of abnormalities of blood vessels in the abdomen

Preparation

A copy of your request is required prior to offering you an appointment. Once received, we will contact you to make a booking - you will be asked a series of safety questions at the time of booking to ascertain your eligibility to undergo MRI.

On the day of the procedure, you will be asked to fast (nothing to eat or drink) for 4 hours prior to your MRI. Unless you are told otherwise, continue to take any regular medications.

Not all abdominal MRI scans attract a Medicare rebate. You will be informed at the time of booking of any out of pocket costs related to your scan.

How long will it take?

MRI scans of the abdomen will generally take 30-60 minutes.

What to expect

Upon arrival, you'll be asked to complete a detailed MRI Safety questionnaire which will be verbally checked by the technician undertaking your scan. This is to ensure your safety in the MRI scanner.

You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and to remove all metal (wedding rings made from precious metals may remain on).

You will be positioned on your back on the MRI scan table and a piece of equipment will be placed on top of your abdomen. The scan table will move into the scanner so your abdomen will be in the centre of the scanner. The MRI scanner is well lit, open at both ends and a fan circulates cool air during the scan.

It may be necessary to administer a contrast agent or dye (Gadolinium) as part of your MRI scan. This helps to provide additional information to assist the doctor with diagnosing or monitoring your condition. The contrast is given via a small cannula which will be placed in a vein in your arm.

The MRI scanner makes a series of loud tapping noises, and you will be provided with headphones to reduce the noise. You may be asked to hold your breath for some scans.

You will be provided with an emergency buzzer, and be able to contact the technician at any time during the scan if required.

After Your Examination

There are no restrictions on your activities following your MRI scan. A detailed report will be produced by one of our experienced Radiologists and sent to your referring Doctor, generally within 48 hours.

Questions?

You will be given the opportunity to ask any questions of the technicians 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** the MRI is required, these should be directed to your specialist or the doctor looking after you. We are happy to re-schedule your booking so you can discuss it with your doctor.