



Information for
patients and
carers

**Magnetic Resonance Imaging
(MRI) Scan
Small Bowel**

What is an MRI scan?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is the name given to a technique which takes very detailed pictures of the inside of your body. It uses a powerful magnetic field and radio waves, together with an advanced computer system to build up a series of images. The scanner is an open ended tube, surrounded by a large circular magnet.



Important information

It is very important to contact us before coming for your appointment if you **have, or have had, any of the following:**

- A pacemaker
- A neuro-stimulator
- Cochlear implants
- Aneurysm clips
- A shunt in your head
- A penetrating eye injury with metal fragments

- An artificial heart valve
- Any surgery which involved placing metal implants or clips

Or if any of the following apply:

- You are pregnant or think you may be pregnant (MRI scanning is not advisable in early pregnancy unless there are special circumstances)
- You weigh over 200 kg (approx. 31 stone)
- You need an interpreter.
Please tell us this when you receive your appointment so that we can arrange an official interpreter for you
- You have problems weight-bearing and need a hoist to transfer
- You are unable to keep still or lie flat
- You have had a previous allergic reaction to MRI contrast agent Gadolinium (dye)

If you fail to inform us, we may not be able to scan you on the day of your appointment.

Preston MRI appointments: 01772 523999 / 522014

Is there any preparation for the scan?

It is very important that you do not eat or drink anything for the six hours before the scan. Food in your stomach can make it difficult to obtain images. You may continue to have clear fluids such as water or diluted squash/cordial up to 2 hours before your scan. If you are diabetic and are concerned about fasting for six hours prior to the scan, please inform us.

Your referring Doctor will have prescribed a bowel preparation. It is important that you bring the prescribed medicine with you to the hospital and we will give you instructions on how to take it. Do not take it at home, as it needs to be drunk in the MR department before your scan.

What happens when I arrive at the x-ray department?

When you arrive at the MRI department you should go to the reception desk where you will be booked in and asked to have a seat in the waiting area. You may be asked to complete a safety questionnaire. A Radiographer will then go through the questionnaire with you, explain the procedure and answer any questions that you may have. The MRI staff will then give you the bowel preparation in liquid form to drink over a 40 minute period before the scan. This will expand and coat the bowel which is very important for us to get diagnostic pictures. You will be asked to change into a hospital gown. You will also be asked to remove anything that may contain metal, such as jewellery, hair grips, wigs and body piercings before entering the scan room. You will be provided with a locker to put your clothing and belongings into whilst you have your scan.

Can you bring a relative or friend with you?

Anyone can accompany you to the hospital but they will not usually be allowed into the room when you have your MRI scan. Please note that we do not have child care facilities so we ask that you do not bring small children with you unless accompanied whilst you have your scan.

What will happen during my MRI scan?

During the scan you will lie on the scanning table with the area of your body being scanned in the centre of the tube.

Equipment known as a coil will be placed over the area being scanned. The purpose of the coil is to improve the quality of the MRI images.

Once you are comfortable and in the correct position, it is important that you remain very still during the scan, as any movement will affect the quality of the pictures.

You will be given a buzzer to press in case you need to contact the Radiographer during the scan.



The Radiographer will be able to see you through a window during the scan and will talk to you through an intercom in between the pictures. Throughout the scan you will hear repeated loud banging, buzzing and tapping noises which stop and start.

These noises are normal during a scan and we will provide you with earplugs and headphones to protect your ears from some of the noise. You may be asked to hold your breath for a short period of time for some of the pictures.

Is MRI safe?

The MRI scan poses no risk when appropriate safety guidelines are followed. All staff follow appropriate safety measures before, during and after the scan.

Will I need an injection?

You will need to have an injection of MRI contrast (dye) called Gadolinium to make the small bowel more visible. This is given through

cannula in your arm or back of your hand by a qualified member of staff. We will also need to give you an injection of Buscopan (a muscle relaxant) through the cannula. This helps to reduce the movement of your bowel and make the pictures clearer.

Is MRI contrast safe?

As with all medication, a very small number of patients may be allergic to MRI contrast. Allergic reactions are rare and, when they do occur, most of them are mild. Please inform the Radiographer if you have any allergies, any kidney problems or are breastfeeding.

It is known that small amounts of Gadolinium may remain in the brain or other tissues after an injection, although there is currently no evidence that these small amounts cause any harm.

Is Buscopan safe?

Buscopan is a widely used medication that reduces bowel spasm in MRI examinations. However, if you are experiencing other medical problems there may be occasions when its use is not recommended. You may experience some blurring of vision after the injection but the effects of Buscopan are short-lived and last about one hour. You are advised not to drive until any effects have worn off. In the very rare event that following the examination you develop painful, blurred vision in one or both eyes, you must attend hospital immediately for assessment. The side effects and risks of these injections will be discussed with you before your scan.

How long will the scan take?

The scan will take approximately 30 minutes but please be prepared to be in the department for up to three hours as your appointment time also includes the time for us to check your safety questionnaire and prepare you for your scan. On rare occasions emergency patients must

be scanned and this may lead to a delay. However, we will keep you informed of any delays.

What happens after the scan?

You are advised to stay in the MR department for 30 minutes after the injection of contrast dye. The mixture we ask you to drink when you arrive for scan can cause loose motions for a day or two. There are no side effects from the scan itself. You can also eat and drink as usual after the scan. If you have any concerns then please inform a member of staff.

When will I get the scan results?

The Radiographer will not be able to give you your results on the day of your scan as the MRI images will need to be interpreted carefully by a Radiologist. The results will be sent back to the person who referred you for the scan.

Contact details

If you have a query about the MRI scan or you have any other questions, worries or doubts, do not hesitate to contact us prior to your appointment on: 01772 523999

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.rcr.ac.uk/system/files/publication/field_publication_files/bfcr193-gadolinium-based-contrast-agent-adult-patients.pdf

www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/890/smpc

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

دو سر ی زبانوں او ر بڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو یی چھپا یں ییہ ابی دست بو یسکت ہے برا ے مہر یان پو ے یچہ ہی۔ معلومات

Arabic:

مطبوعة بأحرف كبيرة و بلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه المعلومات يُرجى أن تطلب أخرى يمكن تو فسير هذه المعلومات

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