

Information About Your MRI Scan



Your doctor has referred you for an **MRI scan**. This will take place in the Imaging Department (also known as Radiology or X-ray department) on either the **Ground floor** or **First floor** of the **Royal Hospital for Children**. Please refer to your appointment letter for guidance on where to attend.

What is an MRI scan?

An **MRI** (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan uses giant magnets inside a special machine to take pictures of the inside of the body. You will lie on a comfortable bed which slides into the middle of the machine to take the pictures. MRI does not use any X-rays to take the pictures and does not have any side effects.



What do I need to think about before coming for the scan?

As the scanner has a large magnet inside, please let us know before the scan date if you or your guardian have any metal inside your body from any surgery or accidents. In rare cases, we won't be able to carry out the scan if you do not let us know about any metal before your appointment.

Sometimes we need to use a cannula (a small tube) to give contrast dye, which is a bit like having a blood test. If you need this, the information will be included in your appointment letter with further instructions. If you have any questions regarding this then please call us on the number at the end of this leaflet.

What will I wear?

Please wear some comfortable clothes with no metal poppers, eyelets or buttons. Or we may ask you to change into a hospital gown.

Can I bring someone with me?

If you are under 16 you must make sure a parent or guardian who knows your full medical background comes with you to the scan. This is because we need to make sure you are safe to be around a strong magnetic field. One person can stay with you during the scan, we will check them for any metal too.

If you are over 16 and are confident about your own medical history you may attend on your own.

Note for parents and guardians:

If you have to bring other children with you we cannot provide childcare facilities. We will have to ask you to come back another time if this is an issue.

What does the scan involve?

When it is time for your scan, we get you to lie up on the MRI bed. We place a type of camera called a coil on the part of your body we want to take pictures of. The scanner is very loud so you will wear earplugs and headphones. We will slide you into the middle of the machine. You do not feel anything when the pictures are being taken and you can hold a buzzer that lets you talk to us if you need to. The adult you bring with you can stay during the scan. You can watch a DVD or listen to the radio whilst being scanned.

It is really important that you stay still. We might ask you to hold your breath for some pictures but these are short and fairly easy. Don't worry, we will tell you if you need to do this.

If the Doctors want us to use the contrast dye to make the pictures clearer, this will go in through your cannula towards the end of the scan.

How long does the scan take?

Most MRI scans take between 20 minutes to an hour and will depend on what the Doctors have asked us to do.

What happens after the scan?

There are no side effects from having an MRI scan and you can go about your day normally. Any contrast dye used comes out in your pee but you will not notice it.



How will I get the results?

The results go to the hospital Consultant who asked for your scan. You will not get any results on the day as our Radiologist will need time to go over all the pictures in detail and write a report.

Do you have any other questions?

Please call the number below or ask your Radiographer on the day.

You can find a video of our MRI scanner on the What? Why? Children in Hospital website at www.wwcih.org.uk

MRI scanner video - <https://www.whatwhychildreninhospital.org.uk/video-happens-in-mri>

Cannula video - <https://www.whatwhychildreninhospital.org.uk/cannula>

Contact Centre

Telephone Number: 0800 056 0103

www.nhsggc.org.uk