

MRI

INFORMATION SHEET

What is an MRI?

MRI stands for Magnetic resonance Imaging. The scanner uses radio waves and a strong magnetic field to obtain computer generated pictures of different parts of your body. It does not use X-rays and is painless.

What we need to know beforehand

Before your examination we will need some important information to make sure the examination is safe.

- Are you pregnant? There is no evidence that MRI is harmful in pregnancy, but contrast should be avoided.
- Do you have a pacemaker, cochlear implant, or stimulator as these may malfunction in the scanner?
- Have you had surgery recently?
- Do you have renal impairment, as this may limit the use of contrast?
- Have you ever had an allergic reaction to contrast?
- Have you ever worked with metal?
- Do you have severe claustrophobia?

The MRI radiographer will ask these and other questions prior to your MRI to ensure your safety and wellbeing.

What preparation is required?

Usually no special preparation is required. Some examinations of the abdomen and pelvis may require fasting, but you will be informed of these requirements by the receptionist at time of booking. As the scanner is a large magnet which is always switched on you cannot bring metallic items into the scanner room. Restricted items include:

- Mobile phones

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request an appointment online at www.clarityimaging.com.au

- Pens, keys, hair clips
- Items containing magnets such as certain dentures, stoma bags etc.
- Credit cards, purses and wallets
- Any other metallic items

What happens during an MRI scan?

You will need to complete a safety questionnaire, and the MRI radiographer will confirm that you have no metallic objects in or on your body prior to the examination, and you may be asked to change into a gown.

The radiographer will ask you to lie down on the padded MRI bed, and will position coils over the area of your body to be examined to allow for the best possible pictures. As the MRI can be quite noisy, you will be given hearing protection or headphones that allow you to listen to music or the radio.

The part of your body to be examined will then be slid into the center of the scanner, which is a wide tube, open at both ends. The examination will last 10-30 minutes or so, during which you need to stay very still to allow for clear pictures. There will be certain times during the scan when you can move little, the radiographer will tell you when. You will be watched throughout the study, and there is an intercom system for communication.

Occasionally you may require an injection of contrast during the study. This will require a small needle to be placed, usually in your elbow or the back of your hand.

When can I expect the results of my MRI scan?

As a rule, all MRI scans are reported by our radiologists the same day, at which point the doctor who requested the procedure will receive the results electronically. The images will also be available to be looked at by the doctor via the internet. If the results are urgent, please inform the staff, and our doctor will endeavour to report the study as quickly as possible. Occasionally the scan may require a second opinion from a sub specialist radiologist. This may result in a slight delay.

If you have had an MRI or other scan performed elsewhere, please bring a copy as it will allow for a comparison to be made.