



PATIENT INFORMATION MRI

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO
BRING YOUR REFERRAL AND
ANY PREVIOUS FILMS.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a MRI scan?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging is a new medical technology that uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves to allow doctors to visualise certain anatomical structures more clearly than with other modalities. The pictures produced by this new technology may help your doctor detect and define the differences between healthy and diseased tissue. Conditions that a few years ago might only have been detectable from physical signs and symptoms now may be clearly seen, and doctors will have more time and better information to determine the most appropriate treatment.

What happens?

The MRI machine may look intimidating because of its size, but there is no need to be frightened. Before the scan the technician will help you onto the examination table. You will be positioned comfortably, generally with your arms at your sides. The examination table will then slide into the magnet. While the machine is in operation you will hear intermittent humming and thumping sounds- these are quite normal and should be no cause for alarm.

The exam usually takes about 30 minutes, sometimes less depending on the part of the body being imaged. If you need any assistance throughout the exam, all you need to do is ask. In fact you can speak to the technician throughout the exam and you will be given a buzzer should you have any problems during the scan.

The images that have been taken will be reviewed for quality. When the quality is acceptable you may get dressed and prepare to leave. You may then resume your normal daily activities.

Do I need to have an injection?

In some instances the doctor may decide to order an image enhanced agent. This is a liquid that is injected into a vein in the arm or leg. It may help to make the details of MR imaging more clearer. It does not mean that anything is wrong with you. Please do not become concerned. It simply means the doctor would like a clearer picture.

What do I need to do on the day of my examination?

Preparing for your MRI exam is relatively simple. You may eat normally and take any prescribed medication. Plan to arrive at our centre 15-20 minutes earlier than your appointment. When you

arrive you will be asked questions about your medical history. In order to provide you with the best possible care, you may be asked the following questions:

Do you weigh 136kg or more?

Can you lie flat comfortably?

Do you suffer from claustrophobia?

Are you pregnant?

MRI scans are generally not recommended for pregnant women.

Do you have any medical devices such as:

A copper containing intra-uterine contraceptive device?

Cardiac pacemaker?

Cerebral aneurism clip?

Meal implants or other surgical clips?

Neurostimulators?

Hearing aid?

Do you have any metal shrapnel in your body or metal fragments in your eyes?

Metal devices cause interference.....

Ultrasounds are available at Illawarra Radiology Group at the following branches:

Wollongong

383 Crown St

Wollongong 2500

Phone: 422878883

Shellharbour

Suite 1, Professional Centre

Stockland Shellharbour 2529

Phone: 42967222

Corrimal

**3/83 Railway Street
Corrimal 2518
Phone: 42852119**

**Warrawong
Shop 101, Cowper St
Warrawong 2502
Phone: 42746855**

Telephone or visit the most convenient branch to
make an appointment.