

THE MRI SCANNER

Feel anxious about your scan?

It is normal to feel anxious about undergoing an MRI



The Radiographer understands this and can offer reassurance. They will make sure you feel as comfortable as possible on the scanner bed

It may be possible to be scanned feet first

The Radiographer will talk to you via an intercom, and will give you a patient call bell to press if you wish to stop the scan

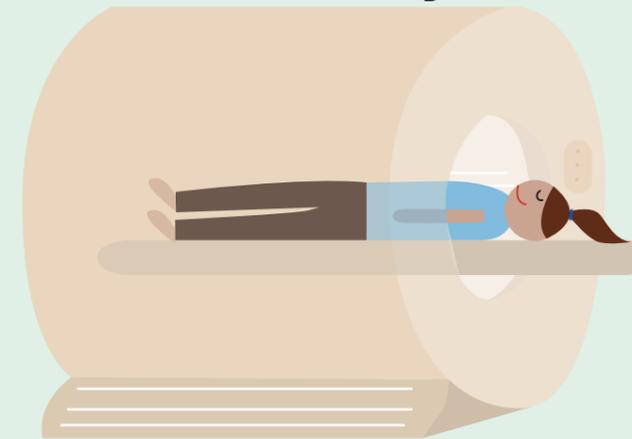
Sometimes it is possible for an eye-mask or special mirrored glasses to be worn. Occasionally a friend or relative could accompany you into the scan room, or the Radiographer may be able to play some music in the scanner to help you to relax

Possible effects from the scan

During the MRI scan you may feel that you get a little warmer

You will be asked to give your weight prior to the scan, this will allow the scanner to ensure you do not get too warm during your scan. There is a fan inside the scanner to ensure you feel comfortable throughout your scan

There are no known long-term effects from having an MRI scan
(International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection 2009)



Safety

Every MRI unit has an MR Responsible Person. This person looks after the safety of patients, staff and equipment

Everyone who goes into the scan room must complete a questionnaire which will be checked by a Radiographer to ensure safety

An MRI scan is a safe and painless procedure. It does not involve exposing the body to x-ray radiation. Extensive research has been carried out into whether magnetic fields and radio-waves used during MRI scans could pose a risk to the human body. This means people who are vulnerable to the effects of radiation, such as pregnant women and babies, can have a scan if necessary. No evidence has been found to suggest there is a risk which means MRI scans are one of the safest medical procedures currently available



It is important to tell the Radiographer if you are or may be pregnant as steps can be taken to check that the scan is still necessary, noise levels reduced where possible and the type of MRI scan may be changed to ensure minimal risk



British Association of MR Radiographers
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