

This information is for patients who are planning to undergo a medical imaging test known as a MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan at Melbourne Radiology Clinic

MRI does not use radiation

An MRI scanner uses a powerful magnet and radiowaves to produce superbly detailed views of the human body, particularly soft tissues, such as the brain, spinal cord and muscles. Unlike many other imaging tests, MRI does not use radiation. Though some discomfort may occur from having to lay still, MRI is otherwise a painless procedure and typically takes approximately 20 - 30 minutes to perform.

You will also be asked to read and complete our **MRI Consent Form & Safety Questionnaire**.

Preparation

Please read the following information carefully

- No preparation is necessary for a MRI scan. You can eat and drink normally.
- On arrival at Melbourne Radiology Clinic, you will be asked to complete the **MRI Consent Form & Safety Questionnaire** before the scan to thoroughly understand your overall health.
- As a strong magnet is used, all metallic devices **MUST** be removed before entering the MRI room. [Please consult the **MRI Safety Questionnaire** for further information.]
- Patients with cardiac pacemakers and cochlear implants cannot undergo MRI scans. Other metallic implants may prohibit patients from having an MRI scan. This includes people with certain types cerebral aneurysm clips, vascular stents, infusion pumps and neurostimulators.
- The scan occurs in an enclosed space, so if you are claustrophobic or feel anxious, please inform us in advance. We can offer a light sedative that may relax you, however, you will require a responsible adult to drive you home and you must refrain from any significant activity for the remainder of the day. In particular, you should not drive a car or any other machinery, nor make important decisions, such as signing legal documents.
- Please note: Melbourne Radiology Clinic's MRI scanner is the latest Siemens Espree unit which has a wide bore that is 16% wider than conventional MRI units so patients may experience less anxiety when entering the enclosed space of the MRI scanner.
- You will be asked to wear the examination gown provided. You will then lie on a movable scanning table that moves into the bore of the MRI. The body part to be scanned will be positioned in the centre of the tunnel. A device, known as a coil, which improves the quality of the images, may be placed over the body region to be examined during the scan.

INFORMATION FOR FEMALE PATIENTS

- Female patients are requested not to wear eye make-up for brain scans as this can affect image quality.
- If you are or might be pregnant, please call the Clinic in advance of your appointment so that the radiologist can discuss your situation with yourself and/or referring doctor. As a general rule, MRI scans are usually not conducted in the first trimester of pregnancy unless it is deemed by the referring doctor or radiologist that is an absolute medical necessity to do so and that the benefits of the test outweigh the risks. This of course assumes that there is no other test available that can provide similar information.



melbournerradiologyclinic

For All Appointments ph: 03 9667 1667

ABN 68 134 592 911

Melbourne Radiology Clinic
Ground Floor, 3-6 /100 Victoria Parade
East Melbourne VIC 3002

tel 9667 1667 fax 9667 1666
info@melbournerradiology.com.au
www.melbournerradiology.com.au

MRI CONTRAST / INTRAVENOUS DYE (Gadolinium)

Some patients undergoing an MRI scan may require an injection of an intravenous (IV) dye (contrast) known as Gadolinium, which is a paramagnetic substance that is visible on MRI scans. If contrast is required, this will be discussed with you by our MRI Technician and /or Radiologist on the day of your appointment. may be provided.

Procedure

Once the scan is under way as you will hear a loud vibrating or knocking sound. Noise cancelling headphones are provided for you to use and you may wish to listen to music or radio of your choice during the scan.

It is very important that you keep your body extremely still during the scan. Movement during a scan will result in lower quality or blurred images, similar to the blurring effect that occurs when taking a photograph of a moving object.

Usually four or five different types of MRI scans called sequences are taken with each one lasting about 2–8 minutes. Overall, you will be in the scanner for about 20 minutes. A sequence or sequences may need to be repeated if there is blurring of the images due to excessive movement.

You will be in constant communication with the technician who conducts the MRI. Their role is to ensure that you are comfortable and kept up-to-date with the progress of your scans. As an additional safety mechanism, you will be provided with a buzzer to hold during the scan. Press this at anytime should you feel exceedingly uncomfortable or anxious to gain the attention of the MRI technician. The scan at this point will be stopped and you will be immediately attended to by our staff.

Follow up

AFTER YOUR SCAN

A radiologist, a medical doctor specialised in interpreting medical images for the purposes of providing a diagnosis, will then review the images and provide a formal written report. If medically urgent, or you have an appointment immediately after the scan to be seen by your doctor or health care provider, Melbourne Radiology Clinic will instantly have your results ready. Otherwise, the report will be received by your doctor or health care provider within the next 24 hours.

- Please ensure that you make a follow up appointment with your referring doctor or health care provider to discuss your results.

REMEMBER ...

- Please bring to the clinic any prior scans (eg. X-rays, ultrasounds, MRI, CT) and reports as these will assist the radiologist in assessing your condition.
- If you have any further queries please call Melbourne Radiology Clinic on **(03) 9667 1667** – we are only too happy to help.
- Please note that any referral for a scan is valid at Melbourne Radiology Clinic, even if it has been written on a referral form from another radiology provider.

Whilst every effort is made to keep your appointment time, the special needs of complex cases, elderly and frail patients can cause unexpected delays. Your consideration and patience in these circumstances is appreciated.

