



Your MRI scan: extremity scanner

Information for patients

What is an MRI scan?

MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging. This uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves to create pictures, on a computer, of tissues, organs and other structures inside your body without the need for potentially harmful X-rays.

Are there any risks?

There are no known harmful side effects from exposure to the levels of magnetic field and radio signal used in our scanner.

Safety checklist

There are certain medical and physical conditions that prevent the use of MRI. Because of this you **must read and complete** the enclosed MRI patient safety checklist and then bring it with you on the day of your scan.

If you answered yes to any of the safety questions, please contact us as soon as possible on 01737 231 610.

Is there any preparation?

Due to the strong magnetic field, metal and magnetic items cannot be taken into the scan room. You will need to remove watches and jewellery – including body piercings – and leave phones, music players, credit cards and other metal items outside the scan room. Lockers re provided, but we asked that you leave your valuables at home.

What does it involve?

The radiographer will show you to the equipment and explain the scan.



All you need to do is lie still and relax. MRI is a painless examination and you will feel nothing but you will be aware of loud drumming noises from the scanner. We will give you ear protection to help reduce the noise.

You will be able to contact the radiographic staff should you become uncomfortable.

What if I am claustrophobic?

This is not a problem with this type of scanner. You do not lie within a 'tube' – only the arm or leg being scanned is in the scanner. The rest of your body is in a sitting or lying position on a reclining chair next to the scanner.

How long will it take?

The length of the scan varies depending on your individual needs. Most scans last between 20 and 50 minutes. Extra time is needed for administration.

Will I have an injection?

For some examinations a small injection into a vein on your hand or arm may be needed. This improves the quality of the images in certain areas. If you require an injection, we will explain the procedure beforehand.

Injections carry a very small risk of allergic reaction and as a precaution we advise that you stay with us for 30 minutes after your scan.

When do I find out the results?

Your scan will be reviewed and reported by an appropriate specialist. This report will be sent to the person who asked for your examination and they will discuss it with you at your next appointment.

How to find us

The MRI extremity scanner is not in the main X-ray department, but is at the opposite (east) end of East Surrey Hospital on the ground floor.

If you enter by the East Entrance, turn left at the main corridor and follow the signs for the MRI extremity scanner. The scanner can also be reached by following the main hospital corridor from the Main Entrance.

Further information

If you need to cancel, change your appointment or have any concerns/queries about your examination, please contact the MRI department on: [01737 768511 x1721](tel:01737768511) (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm).

Directions, parking and travel information for East Surrey Hospital and Crawley Hospital is available on our website at www.surreyandsussex.nhs.uk/finding-us/

Contact us

Diagnostic imaging department

East Surrey Hospital
Redhill Surrey RH1 5RH
Tel: 01737 231 721
www.surreyandsussex.nhs.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Telephone: 01737 231 958
Email: pals@sash.nhs.uk
Write to: PALS, East Surrey Hospital
Redhill, Surrey RH1 5RH

You can also ask a member of staff to contact PALS on your behalf.

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