

When do I get the results?

You will not receive the results on the day of your scan. The results will be available from the doctor who sent you for the scan, who usually receives them within 2 working days of your appointment date.

If you are unable to keep your appointment please contact us at **1800 300 200** so we can arrange another appointment for you.

Timely attendance is important so please arrive **at least 20mins prior to your appointment** to allow for registering and form filling.

It is also important to bring information such as **previous x-rays or scans, relevant forms, doctors' referral letter and insurance details.**



Blackrock Clinic

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A PATIENT'S GUIDE TO *MRI Scans*

FP1400

Accredited by Joint Commission International

Welcome to Blackrock Clinic Radiology department

What is an MRI scanner?

An MRI scanner is an advanced, state-of-the-art imaging modality which can produce very detailed images of the inside of your body.

What does “MRI” stand for?

“MRI” stands for “Magnetic Resonance Imaging”.

What does the MRI scanner look like?

It looks like a very wide barrel which is open at both ends. It is very bright and airy inside the machine. It is located in the centre of a large room. It uses a large magnet to make the pictures. A cushioned table will move you in and out of the scanner.

How does it work?

MRI scanners do not use x-rays. It produces pictures of your body using a magnet and radio waves.

What happens prior to the MRI study?

Before you can enter the scan room, you will be asked to fill out a questionnaire. This is to ensure that any implants/ metal that may be present in your body will not affect your scan or be affected by the scan.

How should I prepare for the scan?

There is no need to fast, unless contacted prior to your scan by the MRI department, so eat and drink as normal and take any medications as usual, unless otherwise instructed.

You will be asked to remove all metal items from your person including coins, keys, cards, watches, and other jewellery.

You may wear normal clothing into the scanner providing there are no zips, metal buttons, or metal accessories.

We suggest dressing in loose comfortable lightweight clothing such as a tracksuit or something similar. You may be asked to change into a hospital gown.

What to expect during the scan?

The radiographer will bring you into the scan room and you will be asked to lie down on a table. You will be given a bell to hold in your hand. If you squeeze this, the radiographer will come straight into the room and stop the scan if you feel that you cannot continue.

You can also ask for a blindfold to place over your eyes. Some people find the scan easier if their eyes are closed. The table will move slowly up and into the brightly lit scanner. The part of your body to be imaged lies at the centre of the scanner. A fan will be on the entire time you remain in the scanner to aid your comfort, as sometimes the temperature of the scanner can become slightly warm.

Once you are positioned comfortably within the scanner the radiographer will leave the scan room. However the radiographer can see you at all times and will be in contact throughout the scan via a two-way intercom.

When scanning begins you will hear a very loud thumping or banging noise. You will be given ear plugs or headphones to help with this noise. Other than sound you should experience no other sensation except maybe slight vibrations during your scan. Very rarely some people notice a warm feeling in the area being examined. This is normal, but if it becomes bothersome let the radiographer know.

Try to relax as much as possible during the scan. It is really important that you try and stay as still as possible. Movement causes the images to blur. Sometimes the whole scan may have to be repeated. The radiographer will explain to you during the scan when it is time to stay still.

Will I need an injection?

Sometimes a small needle is put into a vein in your arm and contrast (dye) is injected. The contrast may be needed to help image the part of your body being scanned.

How long will the scan take?

The scan is divided up into different sections and the radiographer will let you know during the examination how long each part will take. Depending on the scan it can take anywhere from 15 minutes to 60 minutes.

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