

Patient Guide for MRI (Private Patients)



Welcome to the Queen Square Imaging Centre, London's leading independent MRI facility for specialist neuroimaging.

This leaflet aims to provide you with some important information about your MRI scan visit. If you have any questions or would like any further explanation, please do not hesitate to ask.

What is MRI?

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is an imaging technique which uses a magnetic field and radio waves to create detailed images of the human body. The information we obtain using an MRI scanned will aid your doctor in findings the best treatment for you.

Is MRI safe?

Yes. Unlike other imaging tests which involve X-rays, MRI does not involve any ionising radiation. There are no known side effects from the scanning process. However, MRI is not for everybody. Because of the strong magnetic field, MRI is not suitable for patients with:

- A cardiac pacemaker
- Aneurysm clips
- Metal fragments within the eye
- Cochlear implants
- Shunt inserted into your brain or body
- Or if you are within the first trimester of the pregnancy



Before your scan, the radiographer will go through a process of verbal consent with you which will involve a detailed safety questionnaire. **If there is any reason you think MRI may be unsafe for you, it is important that you call the imaging centre on the number on your appointment letter to speak to one of the radiographers.**

Preparing for your scan

There are no special preparations involved. You can eat and drink as you would normally and take whatever medications you would normally take as normal.

As a general rule, it is always useful if you could:

- **Wear comfortable clothing with minimal attached metal (zips, buttons etc). We may need you to change into a gown for your scan which we will provide**
- **Avoid wearing any eye makeup or false eye lashes, especially if you are having or brain or eyes scanned.**
- **Avoid bringing any jewellery or valuables with you that you would not be happy to leave in a locked room.**
- **Bring any previous scans that you might have copies of to your scan appointment. This can be very useful for comparison so that we can provide a more detailed report.**

What will happen during my visit?

When you arrive for your appointment, please report to the receptionist. You will be given some important paperwork to complete which will include some important paperwork. If you will need any assistance in completing this paperwork, please inform us before your appointment. One of our radiographers will go through this questionnaire with you and make sure there are no reasons why it would be unsafe to scan you. Please feel free to ask any questions or raise any concerns you may have. The radiographer will also ask you to remove any metallic jewellery and get you changed into a gown if necessary.

During your scan, you will be positioned lying on your back on a comfortable table and positioned within the scanner. All you must do during the scan is lie still while the images are being taken. MRI scanners are normally very noisy machines, and we will give you some ear plugs to protect your ears. You do not feel anything, and it will not hurt. The radiographer will talk to you throughout the scan and make sure you are ok.

If you are nervous about your scan, please call us so that we can put your mind at rest. It is possible for you to bring a relative or friend in with you so that they can sit in the scan room with you as long as they also meet the safety requirements.

Please be aware that children under the age of 16 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult during your appointment.

Will I need an injection?

Occasionally, we use an injection of contrast dye during an MRI scan which enhances the appearance of certain tissues and can add to the quality of the scan. This injection is regarded to be very safe although we will always check to make sure that there is no reason why this injection would be unsafe for you to have if necessary. The radiographer will explain this injection to you in more detail and provide you with some information to take away with you if you need to have the injection during your scan.

When do I get my results?

Once your scan is complete, a specialist consultant will view your images and write a report which will be sent directly to your referring doctor within 24 hours. Your doctor will then give you the results of your scan alongside the results of any other tests or investigations you may have had. The radiographer cannot give you any results but will give you a copy of your scan on a CD for you to take away with you.

Special Assistance

Please let us know if you require any special assistance such as a language interpreter before, during or after your scan.

We value your feedback

We encourage feedback as it allows us to develop and improve our services for the future. We would like to invite you to leave any anonymous comments or suggestions you may have about our service using the review kiosk located at our reception desk.

We obviously hope that your visit will be comfortable and free of worry. However, if you are unhappy with any aspect of your visit, our staff will always try to address any concerns at the time of your appointment. If you would feel more comfortable speaking to someone not directly involved in your care, we operate a complaints procedure. Details of this procedure can be found on our website or from a member of staff.