Welcome to the MRI Department

Information For Children, Parents and Carers

Radiology Department
01 878 4262

8am - 4pm

Main Hospital Number 01 878 4200
What is MRI?

An MRI is an examination where we use a special camera to take pictures of your body.

The MRI scanner uses a magnet to make the picture.

The MRI scanner looks like a big donut or a spaceship. The scanner makes a knocking noise when the pictures are being taken, it does not hurt.
Can I Stay With My Child During Their MRI Scan?

Usually a parent or carer can stay with his/her child during the MRI examination. However this may not always be possible. Parents will be required to complete the MRI checklist.

If you need an interpreter to translate for you please contact us before your appointment to allow us to arrange this.

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MRI PARENT/VISITOR SCREENING FORM

MRI uses radio waves and magnetic fields to produce quality images of the body. Please complete this form in order to enter the MRI Suite.

Name: __________________ PARENT/VISITOR
Date: __________________

Answer “YES” or “NO” to the following questions:

YES NO

1. Have you ever worked with metal (i.e. Welder/Grinder)?

2. Has metallic gear gone into your eye?

3. Have you ever had injury with metal?

4. Is there any chance you could be pregnant?

5. Intravenous (Drip) Device?

6. Have you had previous surgery?

If YES please list:

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Do you have any of the following:

YES NO

Cardiac Pacemaker?

Artificial Cardiac Valve?

Aneurysm (blood vessel) Clip / Coil?

Neurostimulator?

 Cochlear Implant?

Retinal Tack?

Orthopaedic Implants?

Porta catheters / Broncoscope?

VP Shunt?

Dentures / Braces?

Piercing / Tattoo?

Signature: __________________________

Witness Signature: _______________________

Please ensure that all loose metallic objects such as coins, wallets, credit cards, glasses, hearing aids, jewellery, watch and keys are removed before entering the MRI Scan Room.
**METAL OBJECTS**

Metal Objects Are **NOT** Allowed into the MRI Room

Metal objects include:

- Earrings
- Necklace
- Watch
- Mobile Phone
- Keys
- Hair Clips
- Credit Cards (can be damaged)
What Will Happen When You Come To The Hospital?

Please let a member of staff know you have arrived for your MRI scan. **You do not need to queue at the reception desk.**

You will be shown to the MRI waiting room.

A nurse or radiographer will explain what will happen and will answer any questions you may have. The nurse / radiographer will also carry out a MRI safety check list with you.

If your child is due for sedation the nurse will examine your child before the sedation is given.

The scan takes 15-30 minutes to complete. If your child needs sedation you should expect to be with us for approximately 90 minutes.

The results of the MRI scan will be sent to your doctor by the radiologist. This can take up to 3 weeks. Please arrange an appointment in the outpatient department or private clinic to discuss the results of the MRI examination with your child’s doctor.
Preparation For MRI

There are 3 different types of appointments for this scan,

- Sedation MRI,
- MRI without sedation
- General anaesthetic MRI.

When you receive your appointment letter you will be informed which type of scan your child is booked for.

If your child has been given an appointment which may not be suitable please ring the department on **01 878 4828**.

Role play can be very useful in preparing your child for their MRI. You can use the pictures in this booklet to explain what will happen.

The MRI scanner is a tunnel that is open at both ends. There are lights and a microphone. This will allow your child to talk to us during the scan.

Your child may enjoy listening to their favourite CD during the MRI examination so please bring it along (no MP3 players please)
If Your Child is For Sedation

It is important that you follow the instructions you are given for fasting. Your child must not have anything to eat or drink for the length of time as instructed in your appointment letter.

If these instructions are not followed correctly your child’s MRI examination may be cancelled

If possible please do not allow your child to sleep before their appointment as tiredness will increase the effectiveness of the sedation.

Please contact one of the x-ray nurses if your child has breathing problems, a cough or a cold.

If you have any questions about your child’s test please feel free to contact the department

Monday -Friday
8am - 4pm

01 878 4828
Why Does My Child Need Sedation?

Children under the age of 3½ yrs usually require sedation to stay still for the MRI scan.

How is The Sedation Given?

A medicine called **Chloral Hydrate** is usually given as a drink. This will relax your child, helping him/her to sleep so the MRI examination can be done.

Your child will be assessed by a member of our specialised nursing team. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have before the sedation medicine is given.
What happens after the MRI examination?

Once the MRI examination is finished your child may wake up immediately. If not, we will allow him/her to sleep for a little while in the waiting area.

When can you go home?

You can go home when your child is awake and has had something to drink. Your nurse will let you know when it is ok to leave. Your nurse will give you written instructions on how to care for your child when you go home.
Instructions for Parents of Children Who Have Received Sedation

The medicine will remain in your child’s body for up to 24 hours. Your child may be more sleepy than usual. Please read and follow the instructions below.

Your child will need to be cared for by a responsible adult for 24 hours after leaving the hospital.

Allow your baby to sleep but remember to wake him/her up every 3-4 hours for a drink. It is normal for your child to eat less while he/she is sleepy.

Do not leave your child unsupervised for 24hrs after sedation.

Make sure your child is strapped well into his/her car seat or buggy.

Do not allow your child to walk alone for 24 hours as he/she may be unsteady.

In the evening try to keep your child awake to help re-establish his/her bedtime routine.

If you have any questions please contact the Radiology Nurse 01 878 4551/ 01 878 4828 Monday - Friday 8am-4pm At weekends or evening contact the Emergency Department 01 878 4200 or your GP
MRI for Children Who do Not Require Sedation or General Anaesthetic

If your child can co-operate it may be possible for him / her to lie still for the scan without sedation.

Your child will need to lie still for 20-40 minutes. Discuss this booklet with your child using the pictures.
MRI Examination For a Child
Requiring General Anaesthetic

Children who need a general anaesthetic are first admitted to the day ward on the day of their scan. Some children, depending on their condition may be admitted the night before the MRI examination.

Please follow the instructions sent out to you, especially fasting guidelines.

If you think your child is not suitable for a general anaesthetic please phone and talk with us.

Please tell the nurse caring for your child if he/she has had any vaccinations within 21 days before their admission.

Phone 01 878 4828
This is a Picture Of One Of The Radiographers You May Meet
Hints For Parents

🌟 The scan can last for 20-40 minutes. Your child may enjoy listening to his/her favourite CD if he/she is not sedated.

🌟 If your child is for sedation please bring a buggy.

🌟 If your child is due for sedation or general anaesthetic you may find it helpful to bring another adult but please do not bring other children with you.

🌟 It is important that you stick to the guidelines you were given about your child’s fasting. If your child is not fasting his/her MRI examination may be cancelled.

🌟 Please do not allow your child to wear clothing that may contain metal. Baby grows and vests allowed but please bring a blanket to wrap your baby in.

🌟 Prepare your child for the MRI and explain what will happen. Some children think the machine looks like a space ship or giant doughnut.

🌟 Bring a book, colouring book and pencils or toys to keep your child occupied while you wait.

Please make an appointment with your child’s doctor to hear the results 3 weeks after the MRI scan.
This is Clifford the Dog. He is having an MRI today.
Clifford has to put the helmet on to have a picture taken.
This is one of the Nurses. She is listening to a CD. You can bring in your favourite CD to listen to when you are having your scan.
## I SPY

How many things on the list below can you find as you are waiting for your scan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secretary</th>
<th>Computer</th>
<th>Nurse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sink</td>
<td>Mirror</td>
<td>Radiographer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td>Window</td>
<td>Fire Extinguisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Escape</td>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>Blue Aprons</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Board</td>
<td>Fridge</td>
<td>Paper Towel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hand Gel</td>
<td>Bin</td>
<td>Couch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clip Board</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Weighing Scales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cream</td>
<td>Camera</td>
<td>Picture of Sunset</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hen</td>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>Giraffe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penguins</td>
<td>Radiator</td>
<td>Baby Picture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Height Chart</td>
<td>Height Ruler</td>
<td>Blue Seats</td>
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<tr>
<td>XRay Box</td>
<td>X Rays</td>
<td>Toilet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Escape</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Baby Changing Mat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recycle Box</td>
<td>Room 2 Sign</td>
<td>Room Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Drawers</td>
<td>Air Freshener</td>
<td>Folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheel Chair</td>
<td>Buggy</td>
<td>Gloves</td>
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Please remember to wash your hands or use hand gel when visiting the Hospital

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The information contained in this booklet is correct at time of print