

# MRI scanning

## PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET MR1



### Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more branch details.

#### Patient preparation:

Any preparation will be discussed when making your appointment.

#### Duration of examination:

MRI examinations are normally 20 - 45 mins. This varies according to the specific examination.

#### Please bring with you:

- > Your request form
- > All previous relevant imaging
- > Medicare and any Healthcare cards

#### Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information on this procedure please call one of our branches.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

[bensonradiology.com.au](http://bensonradiology.com.au)

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### What is an MRI scan?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a method of imaging which utilises a strong magnetic field to generate images of any region of the human body.

### How does MRI work?

A signal is detected by an antenna or small coil which is placed around the area being scanned. This signal is encoded by magnetic field gradients which are responsible for the loud noise associated with MRI. The signal is then mathematically processed by a computer to form an image.

### Pre-scan procedure

On arrival you will be asked to complete a safety questionnaire. This is to ensure it is safe for you to have the scan. You can also complete this questionnaire online prior to your appointment, at [bensonradiology.com.au/mrisafety](http://bensonradiology.com.au/mrisafety)

People with cardiac pacemakers cannot have an MRI due to the strong magnetic field. Other exclusions include some ear implants, certain brain aneurysm clips and various other medically implanted devices. We have a detailed database of medically implanted devices which we refer to when checking a patient's compatibility with MRI.

Patients with metallic foreign bodies in their eyes, through grinding/welding, are excluded from MRI and may be required to have a screening x-ray to exclude metal.

### What will happen during the examination?

You will be asked to change into a gown and remove your watch and certain jewellery. Underpants and socks may be worn. All valuables will be safely stored in a locker.

You will be positioned on the MRI table. Various foam pads are available for support/comfort. Often, a separate receiver coil or antenna is placed on or around the region being imaged.

Due to the noise of the scanner you will be given headphones to wear. You may bring a CD or simply listen to a radio station of your choice. You will also be given a call buzzer to gain the attention of the MRI radiographer at any time.

### Other considerations

Benson Radiology invests in the latest wide bore MRI technology. The roominess of our 70cm wide scanners means we can accommodate patients of all sizes. These scanners also significantly improve patient anxiety and claustrophobia.

In a very small number of cases patients may require sedation for the examination to be completed. This option may be discussed with your doctor and then with our staff at the time of booking.

MRI is very sensitive to motion. You will be asked to remain as still as possible during the scan.

Some MRI examinations require an injection of a contrast medium to allow imaging of blood vessels/vascular tissues. If required, this will be discussed prior to the injection. Reactions to MRI contrast are very rare.

In the case of pelvic MRI, we may intravenously administer Buscopan to help reduce movement of the bowel during the scan. The duration of the effects of Buscopan will be similar to the duration of the scan (15-25 minutes).

# MRI scanning

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET MR01

## Are there any risks?

MRI does not utilise ionising radiation which is used in x-ray and CT scanning. The magnetic field and radio frequency pulses used in clinical MRI are believed not to produce any long term ill effects. However, due to limited research in the area of pregnancy and MRI exposure, it may be inadvisable to undergo MRI during pregnancy.

**Please advise the MRI staff if you are, or suspect you are, pregnant.**

## After the examination

The scan processing and reporting may take up to two hours. For your convenience we can generally deliver the imaging and report to your doctor the next working day. If you require the results for a follow up appointment on the day of the scan, you may be required to wait for the results. Please note some referring doctors prefer their patients to wait for their imaging and report.



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